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## Bireley, Charles (Video) 10/11/2006 9:15:00 AM

		•	Sireley, Orlanes (video) Torrirzooo 3, 10,00 74
	1		3
1	IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT	1	MS. DUPHILY: This is the
2	IN AND FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE	2	videotape deposition of Mr. Charles
4	MONA DOBRICH and MARCO DOBRICH, individually and	3	Bireley, taken by the Plaintiffs in the
_	As parents and next friend of ALEXANDER DOBRICH,	4	matter of Dobrich, et.al, versus Indian
5	SAMANTHA DOBRICH, JANE DOE and JOHN DOE, individually and as parents and next friend of	5	River School District, et.al, case
6	JORDAN DOE and JAMIE DOE,		
7	Plaintiffs vs. CIVIL ACTION	6	number is 15-120.
8	NO. 15-120	7	The deposition is being held at 31
9	INDIAN RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL.,	8	Hosier Boulevard, Selbyville, Delaware. We
10	Defendants	9	are going on the record on October 11, 2006
11	•	10	at approximately 9:15 a.m., The court
12		11	reporter is Dave Sroka from the firm of
13		12	Wilcox & Fetzer. I am Lindsay duPhily,
14	DEPOSITION OF CHARLES M. BIRELEY, taken pursuant to notice at the Indian Ricer School	13	videotape specialist from Discovery Video
'7	District, 31 Hosier Street, Selbyville, Delawere,	1	·
15	beginning at 9:15 a.m. on October 11, 2006 before	14	Services,
16	David A. Sroka, Registered Professional Reporter and Notary Public.	15	Now, the counsel will introduce
17		16	themselves and then the court reporter will
18	APPEARANCES:	17	swear in the witness.
"	THOMAS ALLINGHAM, ESQUIRE	18	MR. ALLINGHAM: Tom Allingham
19	RICHARD HORVATH, ESQUIRE BRIAN LENHARD, ESQUIRE	19	representing the Plaintiffs and with me is
20	P.O. Box 636	20	Rick Horvath and Brian Lenhard.
	Wilmington, Delaware 19899-0636 For the Plaintiffs	21	MR. GOSSELIN: Jason Gosselin
21 22	ror the rigintities	22	representing the Indian River School
	WILCOX & FETZER	1	' -
23	1330 King Street - Wllmington, DE 19801 (302) 655-0477	23	District, the school board and the other
24	www.wilfet.com	24	defendants.
	2	ļ	4
1	·	1	CHARLES BIRELEY,
2		2	The Witness herein, called for examination by
3		3	the Plaintiffs, having been duly sworn to tell the
4	JASON P. GOSSELIN, ESQUIRE	4	truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth,
,	Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP		
5	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-6996	5	was examined and testified as follows:
	For the Defendants	6	examination by him to.
6	Por the Dolondanto	7	EXAMINATION BY MR. ALLINGHAM:
ł		8	Q. Good morning, Mr. Bireley, my name is Tom
7		9	Allingham, I represent the Plaintiffs. I'm going to
8		10	ask you questions today that are relevant in our
9		11	view to the School Board prayer Issue in this
10			• •
11		12	litigation,
12		13	We have, as your lawyer has probably told
13		14	you separated, or the judge has asked us to separate
14		15	the School Board prior issue from the several other
15		16	issues in the case, and so the deposition today will
16		17	be focused on the School Board prayer issue.
17		18	A couple pieces of introduction. I'm going
18		19	to refer to the final board policy on School Board
19		20	prayer, a copy of which I'll give you later and we
20			
21		21	will talk about it, as the School Board Prayer
22		22	Policy. Do you understand what I mean when I say
23		23	that?
24		24	A. Yes.

### Bireley, Charles (Video) 10/11/2006 9:15:00 AM

		Directly, Charles (video) 10/11/2000 9.15.00 A
1	followed.	1 Q. Do you know what the process would be for
2	Q. You answered my question about your opinion	2 disciplining a School Board who violated a School
3	about the School Board being a legislative board by	3 Board policy?
4	comparing the School Board to the General Assembly,	4 A. Never had the issue to do it, but I would
5	correct?	5 assume that we would come before the rest of the
6	A. Yes,	
ŀ		6 Board members and we would discuss it.
7	Q. Let me ask a couple of more questions. The	7 Q. Fair enough. So, you are not aware of a
8	General Assembly doesn't approve field trips, does	8 specific policy that sets that process but that as
9	it?	9 for example as Board president is what you
10	MR. GOSSELIN: Objection.	10 anticipate what would happen?
11	A. No.	11 A. Yes.
12	Q. More generally in our in the structure	12 Q. I asked you some general questions about
13	of our government, is the General Assembly	13 student attendance at school Board meetings and I
14	responsible for enforcing and administering the	14 want to ask some more specific questions. The
15	policies that it sets, the laws that it passes?	15 minutes of the meetings reflect a presentation of
16	MR. GOSSELIN: Objection.	16 the colors at virtually every meeting, is that
17	A. Ask me the question again please, if you	17 consistent with your recollection?
18	would?	18 A. Yes, except during the summer months.
19	Q. Sure. In our government in the State of	19 Q. Summer months being when the kids are out
20	Delaware is the General Assembly responsible for the	20 of school?
21	administration and enforcement of the statutes and	
22	laws that it passes?	22 Q. So during the academic school year
23	MR. GOSSELIN: Objection.	23 September to June you would have presentation of
24	A. Not that I'm aware of.	24 colors?
	21	23
	21	20
1	Q. You on the other hand as a School Board	1 A. Yes.
2	Q. You on the other hand as a School Board mention are responsible for the enforcement and	A. Yes.     Q. And the colors are presented by the student
2 3	Q. You on the other hand as a School Board mention are responsible for the enforcement and administration of the policies that you pass, isn't	A. Yes.     Q. And the colors are presented by the student     ROTC groups from the two high schools in the
2 3 4	Q. You on the other hand as a School Board mention are responsible for the enforcement and administration of the policies that you pass, isn't that right?	A. Yes.  Q. And the colors are presented by the student  ROTC groups from the two high schools in the  district?
2 3 4 5	Q. You on the other hand as a School Board mention are responsible for the enforcement and administration of the policies that you pass, isn't that right?  A. Yes.	1 A. Yes. 2 Q. And the colors are presented by the student 3 ROTC groups from the two high schools in the 4 district? 5 A. Yes.
2 3 4	Q. You on the other hand as a School Board mention are responsible for the enforcement and administration of the policies that you pass, isn't that right?  A. Yes.  Q. Let me ask you this, on a percentage basis	1 A. Yes. 2 Q. And the colors are presented by the student 3 ROTC groups from the two high schools in the 4 district? 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. Who invites them to do that or do they just
2 3 4 5	Q. You on the other hand as a School Board mention are responsible for the enforcement and administration of the policies that you pass, isn't that right?  A. Yes.	1 A. Yes. 2 Q. And the colors are presented by the student 3 ROTC groups from the two high schools in the 4 district? 5 A. Yes.
2 3 4 5 6	Q. You on the other hand as a School Board mention are responsible for the enforcement and administration of the policies that you pass, isn't that right?  A. Yes.  Q. Let me ask you this, on a percentage basis	1 A. Yes. 2 Q. And the colors are presented by the student 3 ROTC groups from the two high schools in the 4 district? 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. Who invites them to do that or do they just
2 3 4 5 6 7	Q. You on the other hand as a School Board mention are responsible for the enforcement and administration of the policies that you pass, isn't that right?  A. Yes.  Q. Let me ask you this, on a percentage basis over the 30 years of your service as a Board member	1 A. Yes. 2 Q. And the colors are presented by the student 3 ROTC groups from the two high schools in the 4 district? 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. Who invites them to do that or do they just 7 know that they are suppose to show up?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Q. You on the other hand as a School Board mention are responsible for the enforcement and administration of the policies that you pass, isn't that right?  A. Yes.  Q. Let me ask you this, on a percentage basis over the 30 years of your service as a Board member what percentage of your time at public meetings has	1 A. Yes. 2 Q. And the colors are presented by the student 3 ROTC groups from the two high schools in the 4 district? 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. Who invites them to do that or do they just 7 know that they are suppose to show up? 8 A. I believe it's the building principal.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Q. You on the other hand as a School Board mention are responsible for the enforcement and administration of the policies that you pass, isn't that right?  A. Yes.  Q. Let me ask you this, on a percentage basis over the 30 years of your service as a Board member what percentage of your time at public meetings has been spent in the consideration of policies and what	1 A. Yes. 2 Q. And the colors are presented by the student 3 ROTC groups from the two high schools in the 4 district? 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. Who invites them to do that or do they just 7 know that they are suppose to show up? 8 A. I believe it's the building principal. 9 Q. Building principal of the school in which
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Q. You on the other hand as a School Board mention are responsible for the enforcement and administration of the policies that you pass, isn't that right?  A. Yes.  Q. Let me ask you this, on a percentage basis over the 30 years of your service as a Board member what percentage of your time at public meetings has been spent in the consideration of policies and what percentage of time has been spent on other areas of responsibility?	1 A. Yes. 2 Q. And the colors are presented by the student 3 ROTC groups from the two high schools in the 4 district? 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. Who invites them to do that or do they just 7 know that they are suppose to show up? 8 A. I believe it's the building principal. 9 Q. Building principal of the school in which 10 you're meeting? 11 A. Yes.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Q. You on the other hand as a School Board mention are responsible for the enforcement and administration of the policies that you pass, isn't that right?  A. Yes.  Q. Let me ask you this, on a percentage basis over the 30 years of your service as a Board member what percentage of your time at public meetings has been spent in the consideration of policies and what percentage of time has been spent on other areas of responsibility?  A. We have a committee that gives us a report	1 A. Yes. 2 Q. And the colors are presented by the student 3 ROTC groups from the two high schools in the 4 district? 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. Who invites them to do that or do they just 7 know that they are suppose to show up? 8 A. I believe it's the building principal. 9 Q. Building principal of the school in which 10 you're meeting? 11 A. Yes. 12 Q. So, if you were at during the construction
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	Q. You on the other hand as a School Board mention are responsible for the enforcement and administration of the policies that you pass, isn't that right?  A. Yes.  Q. Let me ask you this, on a percentage basis over the 30 years of your service as a Board member what percentage of your time at public meetings has been spent in the consideration of policies and what percentage of time has been spent on other areas of responsibility?  A. We have a committee that gives us a report each Board meeting on policy. If there are some to	1 A. Yes. 2 Q. And the colors are presented by the student 3 ROTC groups from the two high schools in the 4 district? 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. Who invites them to do that or do they just 7 know that they are suppose to show up? 8 A. I believe it's the building principal. 9 Q. Building principal of the school in which 10 you're meeting? 11 A. Yes. 12 Q. So, if you were at during the construction 13 projects a couple of years ago, if you were at the
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q. You on the other hand as a School Board mention are responsible for the enforcement and administration of the policies that you pass, isn't that right?  A. Yes.  Q. Let me ask you this, on a percentage basis over the 30 years of your service as a Board member what percentage of your time at public meetings has been spent in the consideration of policies and what percentage of time has been spent on other areas of responsibility?  A. We have a committee that gives us a report each Board meeting on policy. If there are some to adopt I'd say maybe just a range of 15 to 20, 25 minutes a meeting.  Q. On policy?  A. Yes.  Q. And the remainder on non-policy issues?  A. Yes.  Q. In the course of your tenure as a School Board member are you aware of any instance in which a School Board member has been accused of violating	1 A. Yes. 2 Q. And the colors are presented by the student 3 ROTC groups from the two high schools in the 4 district? 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. Who invites them to do that or do they just 7 know that they are suppose to show up? 8 A. I believe it's the building principal. 9 Q. Building principal of the school in which 10 you're meeting? 11 A. Yes. 12 Q. So, if you were at during the construction 13 projects a couple of years ago, if you were at the 14 elementary school the principal of the elementary 15 school would invites the ROTC? 16 A. No. 17 Q. I misunderstood you then, who would invite 18 them? 19 A. Well, right how it's because we have two 20 high schools and that's where the ROTC and it would 21 be the principals of the two high schools. 22 Q. So, if you are meeting at Indian River High
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Q. You on the other hand as a School Board mention are responsible for the enforcement and administration of the policies that you pass, isn't that right?  A. Yes.  Q. Let me ask you this, on a percentage basis over the 30 years of your service as a Board member what percentage of your time at public meetings has been spent in the consideration of policies and what percentage of time has been spent on other areas of responsibility?  A. We have a committee that gives us a report each Board meeting on policy. If there are some to adopt I'd say maybe just a range of 15 to 20, 25 minutes a meeting.  Q. On policy?  A. Yes.  Q. And the remainder on non-policy issues?  A. Yes.  Q. In the course of your tenure as a School Board member are you aware of any instance in which a School Board member has been accused of violating or failing to comply with a Board policy?	A. Yes.  Q. And the colors are presented by the student ROTC groups from the two high schools in the district? A. Yes. Q. Who invites them to do that or do they just know that they are suppose to show up? A. I believe it's the building principal. Q. Building principal of the school in which you're meeting? A. Yes. Q. So, if you were at during the construction projects a couple of years ago, if you were at the elementary school the principal of the elementary school would invites the ROTC? A. No. Q. I misunderstood you then, who would invite them? A. Well, right how it's because we have two high schools and that's where the ROTC and it would be the principals of the two high schools. Q. So, if you are meeting at Indian River High School the Indian River principal remind the ROTC
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q. You on the other hand as a School Board mention are responsible for the enforcement and administration of the policies that you pass, isn't that right?  A. Yes.  Q. Let me ask you this, on a percentage basis over the 30 years of your service as a Board member what percentage of your time at public meetings has been spent in the consideration of policies and what percentage of time has been spent on other areas of responsibility?  A. We have a committee that gives us a report each Board meeting on policy. If there are some to adopt I'd say maybe just a range of 15 to 20, 25 minutes a meeting.  Q. On policy?  A. Yes.  Q. And the remainder on non-policy issues?  A. Yes.  Q. In the course of your tenure as a School Board member are you aware of any instance in which a School Board member has been accused of violating	1 A. Yes. 2 Q. And the colors are presented by the student 3 ROTC groups from the two high schools in the 4 district? 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. Who invites them to do that or do they just 7 know that they are suppose to show up? 8 A. I believe it's the building principal. 9 Q. Building principal of the school in which 10 you're meeting? 11 A. Yes. 12 Q. So, if you were at during the construction 13 projects a couple of years ago, if you were at the 14 elementary school the principal of the elementary 15 school would invites the ROTC? 16 A. No. 17 Q. I misunderstood you then, who would invite 18 them? 19 A. Well, right how it's because we have two 20 high schools and that's where the ROTC and it would 21 be the principals of the two high schools. 22 Q. So, if you are meeting at Indian River High

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#### Bireley, Charles (Video) 10/11/2006 9:15:00 AM

1	Α.	Yes.

- 2 Q. And similarly at the other high school?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. Sussex Central, correct?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. And who instructs the principals to tell
- 7 the ROTC to show up at the meetings? How do the
- 8 principals find out that they should remind the
- 9 ROTC?
- 10 A. To the best of my knowledge ever since the
- 11 ROTC has been there that's been the process.
- 12 Q. Do you know how long the ROTC has been in
- 13 place?
- 14 A. Probably around five years.
- 15 Q. 2000 or thereabouts?
- 16 A. Yes. I'm not positive but it's somewhere
- 17 around there.
- 18 Q. We talked about students attending the
- 19 meetings for the receipt of awards or recognition,
- 20 who invites them to those meeting?
- 21 A. The building principal.
- 22 Q. The building principal in the school in
- 23 which the meeting is being held?
- 24 A. Well, normally they try to do that to keep

- 1 to invite the students to come to the meeting.
- 2 Q. Understood. So, in effect the principal
  - tells the central office here are my kids who are
- 4 going to be at the meeting, I have invited them?
  - A. Pretty much, yes.
- 6 Q. And is that process a process that was set
  - up by the Board at some point in the mid '90s?
- 8 A. It was done by the superintendent.
  - Q. Who is the superintendent?
- 10 A. Lois Hobbs, the previous superintendent.
  - Q. Let me explore that a little bit. Did Miss
- 12 Hobbs present to the Board the idea that it would be
- 13 good for the Board to recognize achievement of
- 14 students in the schools?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Was there any dissent from that?
- 17 A. Not that I'm aware of.
- 18 Q. Everybody thought it was a good idea?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. I understand that recently there has been
- 21 some rumblings that maybe it's gotten out of hand,
- 22 is that correct?
- 23 A. That's it's gotten out of hand.
- 24 Q. That it's taking too long, the awards

25

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- 1 down on the travel. But, for example if the meeting
- 2 was going to be held at Indian River, this next
- 3 meeting.
- 4 Q. Yup.
- 5 A. The principal would submit a letter to
- 6 central office of recent awards that has been
- 7 generated by his students and they would be invited
- 8 to come to the meeting.
- 9 Q. So, it would be the building principal
- 10 sends a some kind of memo to the central office
- 11 saying would you please recognize my students who
- 12 have done something notable in the last period and
- 13 then the central office would invite the students?
- 14 A. As I understand it.
- 15 Q. And how does the central office invite the
- 16 student, by a letter?
- 17 A. Well, can we go back a minute?
- 18 Q. Yup.
- 19 A. The principal does all of that. The
- 20 principal send a notice to central office was these
- 21 are the ones that, you know, deserve that.
- 22 Q. Got you
- 23 A. But to the best of my knowledge the
- 24 principal is the one that also sends out the notices

- 1 portion of the meeting?
  - A. There's been some discussion, yes.
- 3 Q. Is there some sense that maybe that the
  - awards portion of the Board meeting will be
- 5 eliminated?

2

4

- 6 A. I can't answer that, I don't know.
- 7 Q. Has there been any discussion of that
- 8 possibility?
- 9 A. Not on the Board level, no.
- Q. Has there been discussion of that among
- 11 Board members outside of the Board meeting?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. Who has had such discussions according to
- 14 your knowledge?
- 15 A. I've discussed it with a certain few.
- 16 Q. Which ones?
- 17 A. I know that I did with Dr. Hattier,
- 18 Mr. Helms, Mrs. Bunting, Mrs. Mitchell.
- 19 Q. When did the first of those discussions
- 20 occur roughly speaking?
- 21 A. Probably within the last six months.
- 22 Q. And who initiated discussion you or the
- 23 other side of the conversation?
- 24 A. I did.

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#### Bireley, Charles (Video) 10/11/2006 9:15:00 AM

- 1 Q. So, to the best of your recollection at
- 2 every Board meeting during your service as a Board
- 3 member the School Board opened the meeting with a
- 4 prayer?
- A. To the best of my knowledge. 5
- 6 Q. Who decided, and this is all prior to the
- 7 more recent adoption of the School Board Prayer
- Policy, who decided which Board member would lead 8
- the group in prayer or offer a prayer? 9
- 10 A. The Board president.
- 11 Q. How was it decided which School Board
- 12 member would open the meeting with a prayer?
- A. The Board president just asked someone, I 13
- 14 don't know how.
- Q. Were there any restriction of any kind on 15
- what sort of prayer a School Board member could 16
- 17 over?
- A. Not that I'm aware of. 18
- Q. Prior to the adoption of Policy BDA.1, 19
- whish is the School Board Prayer Policy in October 20
- 21 of 2004, was there any policy that governed the
- offering of prayer at School Board meetings? 22
- 23 A. Not that I'm aware of.
- 24 Q. Were you ever asked to lead the Board in

- who would be invited to offer the prayer? 2 A. It was usually done by a small portion of
- 3 the group of ten.
- Q. And did they have any common 4
- 5 characteristics, the small portion?
- 6 A. Not that I'm aware of.
  - Q. Do you know how that small group, smaller
- 8 group was identified by the Board?
- 9 A. To my knowledge the Board president would
- 10 call on someone at the Board meeting to say the
- 11 prayer, that's all I know.
- 12 Q. But you told me that a small group of the
- 13 Board was asked to offer the prayer, a group that
- you were not a member of, do you know how that group 14
- 15 was identified or picked or selected to be the ones
- 16 who would offer the prayer?
- 17 A. No.
- 18 How small a group, two, three? Q.
- 19 A. Three, four, somewhere in that
- 20 neighborhood.
- 21 Q. Was a Jewish Board member ever included in
- 22 that group?
- 23 A. I don't recall us ever having a Jewish
- 24 Board member.

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prayer or offer a prayer at the beginning of School 1

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- Board meetings prior to the adoption of the School 2
- 3 Board policy?
- A. No. 4
- Q. So, 1974 to 2004 is the period of time 5
- during which you were a School Board member with a 6
- three year hiatus, so if my arithmetic is right 7
- that's 27 years of service prior to the adoption of 8
- Board Policy BDA.1, and you were never asked to 9
- offer a prayer at a School Board meeting? 10
- 11 A. That's correct.
- 12 Q. Do you know why?
- 13 A. No.
- Q. Did you ever tell any Board president that 14
- 15 you were not interested in offering a prayer at the
- School Board meeting? 16
- 17 A. No.
- Q. Again, if my arithmetic is correct, that's 18
- well over 300 School Board meetings at which 19
- 20 somebody offered a prayer, but you were not invited
- 21 to do so, did that strike you as off or unusual?
- 22
- 23 Did you perceive any pattern in the Board
- president's practice in the selection of the person

- Q. Was a Muslim Board member ever included in 1
- 2 that group?
- 3 A. I don't call us having a Muslim Board
- 4 member.

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- 5 Q. Or a Buddhist?
  - A. Same answer.
- 7 Q. A non-Christian Board member ever included
- 8 in that group?
- 9 A. I don't recall us ever having that type of
- 10 Board member.
- 11 Q. Would you characterize the members of that
- 12 smaller group as being particularly religious
- 13 amongst their peers?
  - MR. GOSSELIN: Objection.
- A. Do I answer? 15
- 16 Q. Yes, sir.
  - Can you please ask that question again?
- Q. Was it -- did you perceive that the 18
- criteria for selection of this smaller group was 19
- 20 that these were folks who were particularly
- 21 religious?
- 22 MR. GOSSELIN: Objection.
- 23 A.
- Q. Let me just ask the broad question, is it

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### Bireley, Charles (Video) 10/11/2006 9:15:00 AM

given, it reflects, "During the discussion of this issue several Board members expressed that their constituents do not want the Board to change its practice of opening the meeting with a prayer. It was not felt that the decision could be made this evening regarding whether or not to change our past practice."

Do you recall that during that lengthy meeting about prayer issues with Mr. Griffin in attendance several board members expressed the view that their constituents did not want the Board to change its practice of opening the meetings with a prayer?

14 A. Yes.

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- Q. Can you identify for them those Board 15 members who expressed that view? 16
  - A. Not really, but I know -- I mean I would be afraid to tell you any particular names because I would miss one or something like that, but I know
- 20 that it was discussed.
- 21 Q. Did you express the view that your constituents did not want the Board to change its 22
- 23 practice?
- 24 A. Yes.

1 Q. Okay. When you spoke to your fellow Board

2 members in executive session did you say my

- constituents are in favor of continuing the 3
- 4 practice, or did you say the constituents of mine
- 5 that I've spoken to are in favor of continuing the
- 6 practice?

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- A. I don't remember how I said that.
- 8 Q. You see the distinction that I'm drawing?
- Q. How many constituents do you have in your 10
- district would you suppose? 11
- 12 A. Three, four, 5000.
- Q. So, you said I'm sorry, three to 5000? 13
- 14 Three, four, 5000, somewhere in that
- 15 neighborhood, I guess.
  - Q. At the time of this meeting you estimate
- that you had spoke to ten or 15 of them? 17
  - A. Probably no more than that.
- Q. Did you have any concerns that that was not 19
  - a representative sampling of your constituency?
- 21 A. The Only I can say is I had no one that
- 22 called me and said that it should be anything other
- 23 than that.
- Q. And would you expect that people would have 24

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- Q. How did you form the view that your 1 2 constituents did not want the Board on change its 3 practice?
- A. Based on feedback that I had received from 4 5 the community members.
  - Q. How did you get that feedback?
- A. Well, either by them calling me on the 7
- telephone or, you know, seeing them in the public, 8 9 something like that.
- Q. When did you first start getting comments 10 from the public, your constituents about this issue? 11
- 12 A. After the graduation ceremony there when it
- 13 first hit the newspaper.
- Q. And you began getting calls from your 14
- constituents? 15
- 16 A. Yes. Q. You also had people come up to you on the 17
- street in effect and say we hope you will continue 18
- 19 the Board prayer?
- 20 A. Yes.
- How many constituents would you say you had 21
- talked to by the time of the August 23 executive 22
- 23 session?
- 24 A. Just, I guess ten or 15.

- any concern about expressing the view that the Board 1
- should not open its meetings with a prayer? 2
- 3 A. Please say that again.
- Q. Would there be any reason why one of your 4
- constituencies might be afraid to call you and, you 5
  - know, you really ought to jettison this School Board
- 7 prayer?

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- A. That's possible.
- Q. And an example of why they might be afraid 9
- occurred the very next day at the big Board meeting, 10
- 11 is that right?
  - A. Yes.
  - MR. GOSSELIN: Objection, go
  - ahead.
  - Q. Isn't that correct?
- 16 A. Yes, that's possible, yes.
  - Q. Because what happened at the big Board
- meeting was that many comments were made that were 18
- 19 intended to be intimidating, isn't that right?
- 20 MR. GOSSELIN: Objection.
- Q. During the public comment, not from the 21
- 22 Board members, but during the public commentary?
  - MR. GOSSELIN: Objection.
- 24 A. I'm confused. He says that --

### Bunting, Nina Lou (Video) 10/13/2006 9:07:00 AM

		1
1	IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT	1 The Witness herein, called for examination by
2	FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE	2 the Plaintiffs, having been duly sworn to tell the
4	MONA DOBRICH and MARCO DOBRICH, individually	3 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth,
_	And as parents and next friend of ALEXANDER	4 was examined and testified as follows:
5	DOBRICH, SAMANTHA DOBRICH, JANE DOE and JOHN DOE, individually and as parents and next friend	
6	of JORDAN DOE and JAMIE DOE,	5 EXAMINATION BY MR. ALLINGHAM:
7	Plaintiffs Obit Anton	6 Q. Did you attend the August 24, 2004 Board
8	vs. Civil Action Case No. 15-120	7 meeting?
9		8 A. August 24, 2004 Board meeting, are you
10	INDIAN RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL.,	9 referring to the one where the public, a tot of
10	Defendants	10 people from the public came?
11		
12	DEPOSITION OF NINA LOU BUNTING, taken	11 Q. Hundreds of people?
13	pursuant t notice at the Indian River School	12 A. Okay, yes, I did.
	District, 31 Hosier Street, Selbyville, Delaware,	13 Q. Did enything occur at that meeting that was
14	beginning at 9;07 a.m. on October 13, 2008 before David A. Sroka, Registered Professional Reporter and	14 disturbing to you personally?
15	Notary Public.	15 A. No.
16	40054041050	
17	APPEARANCES:	16 Q. I want to show you a clip of the vide from
''	THOMAS ALLINGHAM, ESQ.	17 that meeting?
18	RICHARD HORVATH	18 A. Okay.
19	BRIAN LENHARD P.O. Box 636	19 Q. This is a portion from the public comment
	Wilmington, Delaware 19899-0636	20 section of the meeting.
20	For the Plaintiffs	21 A. Okey.
21	JARROD D. SHAW, ESQ. Drinker Biddle & Reath, LLP	·
22	One Logan Square	22 (AT THIS POINT IN TIME A TAPE WAS PLAYED)
23	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-6998  For the Defendants	23 Q. Were you distracted when your telephone
24	Lot the Deletinating	24 rang during that clip? Would you like me to play it
		2
1	MS. DUPHILY: This is the	1 again for you?
1 2	MS. DUPHILY: This is the videotape deposition of Ms. Nina Lou	
		1 again for you?
2	videotape deposition of Ms. Nina Lou Bunting taken by the Plaintiff in the	1 again for you? 2 A. No, I don't think I was distracted. I may
2 3 4	videotape deposition of Ms. Nina Lou Bunting taken by the Ptaintiff in the matter of Dobrich, et al. versus Indian	1 again for you? 2 A. No, I don't think I was distracted. I may 3 have been momentarily. 4 Q, Were you present when who was speaking
2 3 4 5	videotape deposition of Ms. Nina Lou Bunting taken by the Plaintiff in the matter of Dobrich, et al. versus Indian River School District, et al., case number	<ol> <li>again for you?</li> <li>A. No, I don't think I was distracted. I may</li> <li>have been momentarily.</li> <li>Q. Were you present when who was speaking</li> <li>during that public comment section?</li> </ol>
2 3 4 5	videotape deposition of Ms. Nina Lou Bunting taken by the Plaintiff in the matter of Dobrich, et al., versus Indian River School District, et al., case number 15-120. We are going on the record at 31	<ol> <li>again for you?</li> <li>A. No, I don't think I was distracted. I may</li> <li>have been momentarily.</li> <li>Q. Were you present when who was speaking</li> <li>during that public comment section?</li> <li>A. Mr. Harold Short.</li> </ol>
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2 3 4 5	videotape deposition of Ms. Nina Lou Bunting taken by the Plaintiff in the matter of Dobrich, et al., versus Indian River School District, et al., case number 15-120. We are going on the record at 31	<ol> <li>again for you?</li> <li>A. No, I don't think I was distracted. I may</li> <li>have been momentarily.</li> <li>Q. Were you present when who was speaking</li> <li>during that public comment section?</li> <li>A. Mr. Harold Short.</li> </ol>
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	videotape deposition of Ms. Nina Lou Bunting taken by the Plaintiff in the matter of Dobrich, et al., versus Indian River School District, et al., case number 15-120. We are going on the record at 31 Hoster Boulevard, Selbyville, Delaware on October 12, 2006 at approximately 12:55 p.m  The court reporter is Dave Sroka from the firm of Wilcox & Fetzer, Wilmington, Delaware. My name is Lindsay duPhily and I'm the videotape specialist of Discovery Video Services.  Counsel will now introduce themselves and then the court reporter will swear in the witness.  MR. ALLINGHAM: I'm Tom Allingham ! represent the Plaintiffs in this case, and with me are Richard Horvath and	again for you?  A. No, I don't think I was distracted. I may have been momentarily.  Q. Were you present when who was speaking during that public comment section?  A. Mr. Harold Short.  Q. Harold Johnson?  A. Harold Johnson, okay. I don't know him that well. I knew it was Harold somebody.  Q. Were you present when he made that statement?  A. Yes, I was.  Q. Did you hear him say that the good Lord has proven that there's a higher power above our Supreme Court?  A. I guess I heard him say it. I didn't hang on every word.  Q. Did you hear him say that was proven when the last I heard Madelyn Murray-O'Hare disappeared never to be seen again?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 16 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	videotape deposition of Ms. Nina Lou Bunting taken by the Ptaintiff in the matter of Dobrich, et al., versus Indian River School District, et al., case number 15-120. We are going on the record at 31 Hosler Boulevard, Selbyville, Delaware on October 12, 2006 at approximately 12:55 p.m  The court reporter is Dave Sroka from the firm of Wilcox & Fetzer, Wilmington, Delaware. My name is Lindsay duPhily and I'm the videotape specialist of Discovery Video Services.  Counsel will now introduce themselves and then the court reporter will swear in the witness.  MR. ALLINGHAM: I'm Tom Allingham I represent the Plaintiffs in this case, and with me are Richard Horvath and Brian Lenhard.  MR. SHAW: I'm Jarrod Shaw and I	again for you?  A. No, I don't think I was distracted. I may have been momentarily.  Q. Were you present when who was speaking during that public comment section?  A. Mr. Harold Short.  Q. Harold Johnson?  A. Harold Johnson, okay. I don't know him that well. I knew it was Harold somebody.  Q. Were you present when he made that statement?  A. Yes, I was.  Q. Did you hear him say that the good Lord has proven that there's a higher power above our Supreme Court?  A. I guess I heard him say it. I didn't hang on every word.  Q. Did you hear him say that was proven when the last I heard Madelyn Murray-O'Hare disappeared never to be seen again?  A. Well, I heard it just now, do I remember 22 Q. that's the first time that you heard it?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	videotape deposition of Ms. Nina Lou Bunting taken by the Plaintiff in the matter of Dobrich, et al., versus Indian River School District, et al., case number 15-120. We are going on the record at 31 Hosler Boulevard, Selbyville, Delaware on October 12, 2006 at approximately 12:55 p.m  The court reporter is Dave Sroka from the firm of Wilcox & Fetzer, Wilmington, Delaware. My name is Lindsay duPhily and I'm the videotape specialist of Discovery Video Services.  Counsel will now introduce themselves and then the court reporter will swear in the witness.  MR. ALLINGHAM: I'm Tom Allingham I represent the Plaintiffs in this case, and with me are Richard Horvath and Brian Lenherd.	again for you?  A. No, I don't think I was distracted. I may have been momentarily.  Q. Were you present when who was speaking during that public comment section?  A. Mr. Harold Short.  Q. Harold Johnson?  A. Harold Johnson, okay. I don't know him that well. I knew it was Harold somebody.  Q. Were you present when he made that statement?  A. Yes, I was.  Q. Did you hear him say that the good Lord has proven that there's a higher power above our Supreme Court?  A. I guess I heard him say it. I didn't hang on every word.  Q. Did you hear him say that was proven when the last I heard Madelyn Murray-O'Hare disappeared never to be seen again?  A. Well, I heard it just now, do I remember

Unsigned

#### Bunting, Nina Lou (Video) 10/13/2006 9:07:00 AM

1	Board	meeting?
---	-------	----------

- 2 A. No, sir, I did not.
- 3 Q. When -- to broaden the question, if any
- other Board member offered a moment of silence would 4
  - you believe that the moment of silence is not
- effective to solemnify the proceedings? 6
  - A. That would be their choice and I'm okay
- 8 with what other people give. Whatever prayer
- 9 someone else gives or how they give it's their
- 10 personal -- it's a personal thing with each one of
- 11 us, and if that's the way they chose it then that's
- 12 fine with me.

5

7

- 13 Q. But as I understand the policy, the purpose
- 14 of the prayer or moment of silence is to solemnify
- 15 the proceedings, correct?
- 16 A. Right.
- 17 Q. If you believe that a moment of silence is
- not effective to solemnify --18
- 19 A. It's not to me.
- 20 Q. You have to let me finish my question?
- 21 A. Okay, sorry.
- Q. If you believe that a moment of silence is 22
- not effective to solemnify the proceedings, why did 23

113

you vote to approve this policy? 24

- pray aloud or silently as so I choose at a Board 1
- 2 meeting.
- 3 Q. Okay. You believe you have the right to
- 4 pray to convert someone --
- 5 A. No, sir.
- 6 Q. Just a minute, let me finish my question?
  - Α. Sorry.
- 8 Q. As an individual citizen, isn't that
- 9 correct?

7

- 10 A. As an individual citizen?
- 11 Q. Yes, ma'am.
- 12 A. Do I feel I have a right to pray to convert
- 13 someone?
- 14 Q. Yes, ma'am.
- 15 A. Personally, privately I would pray to
- convert someone, but would I go to that person and 16
- 17 like pray over them to convert them, is that what
- 18 you mean?
- 19 Q. No. I'm just asking what you have the
- 20 right to do as you understand it?
- 21 A. Okay. Do I have the right to try to
- 22 convert someone else?
- 23 Q. Yes.
- 24 A. No, sir, that's not my right.

115

- A. Because as I said it's among the ten of us. 1
- 2 It's not just my policy, it's ten people's policy,
- 3 it's the community's policy. Therefore, each person
- 4 has their own personal feelings about the whole
- 5 thing. How do I feel about it personally, I feel it
- should be done out loud. Do I respect someone 6 7 else's feelings of how it should be done, yes. I
- respect their prayer whatever kind of prayer it is 8
- 9 because I respect other people and their right to
- 10 say and do what they think is right.
- 11 Q. In their capacity as individuals or in
- 12 their capacity as Board members?
- 13 A. Well, I guess as Board members that evening
- 14 at our regular meeting.
- 15 Q. Do you draw any distinction at all in your
- mind between your rights in your capacity as a Board 16
- 17 member and your rights in your capacity as an
- 18 individual citizen?
- A. Do I see any difference? 19
- 20 Q. Yes.
- 21 A. As far as Board prayer is concerned?
- 22 Q. You can start there, yes.
- 23 A. I think I have the right to pray aloud or
- 24 silently in my regular life, and I have a right to

- 1 Q. I'm going to give you an example of a
- prayer? 2 3 A. Okay.
- 4 Q. And the prayer would be, Lord, we ask that
- 5 you open the hearts of the heathen among us, that
- 6 they may join the community of your church?
- 7 A. Would I give that prayer?
- 8 Q. Nope, that's not my question. My first
- 9 question is, as you understand the rights of U.S.
- 10 Citizens, do U.S. Citizens have the right to offer
- 11 that prayer?

12

- A. They have the right to offer that prayer.
- 13 Q. As you understand the rights of school
- 14 teachers in class, do teachers have the right to
- 15 offer that prayer in class?
- 16 A. No, they do not have the right to offer
- 17 that prayer.
- 18 Q. As you understand the rights of School
- 19 Board members, as School Board members, do they ha
- 20 the right to offer that prayer at a School Board
- 21 meeting?
- 22 A. The one with the heathens among us?
- 23 Q. Yes.
- 24 A. No, they do not have the right to offer

		Bunt	ting, Nina Lou (Video) 10/13/2006 9:07:00 Al
1	that prayer.	1	A. Yes, establishing of religion by the
2	Q. Is that because as School Board members,	2	government.
3	the School Board members are government officials?	3	Q. And do you understand that the laws which
4	A. I feel School Board members are government	4	prohibit teachers, for example, from opening their
5	officials.	5	classes with a prayer, are based on that so called
6	Q. And is that the distinction between their	6	establishment clause?
7	right to offer such a prayer as individuals, and the	7	MR. SHAW: I'm going to object to
8	fact that they don't have such a right to offer such	8	your question. She is not an attorney and
9	a prayer as School Board members, that they're	9	doesn't have any knowledge of what the laws
10	government officials?	10	are based upon.
11	A. The one with the heathens among us?	11	MR. ALLINGHAM: I don't think that
12	Q. Yes, ma'am.	12	Jarrod is instructing you not to answer.
13	A. I think that violates our number three.	13	MR. SHAW: If you have some sort
14	That's why I wouldn't expect anyone to say something	14	of knowledge outside of a legal analysis to
15	like that. I don't think it would have anything to	15	base you answer upon, that's fine.
16	do with whether we were an individual or a	16	A. I have no knowledge of. I even forgot what
17	government official.	17	was in the First Amendment.
18	Q. All right, in the absence of your policy?	18	Q. Do you recall who proposed that a moment of
19	A. Okay, in the absence of our policy	19	silence be included in the options in the School
20	Q. Before you passed the policy on October 19,	20	Board Prayer Policy?
21	2004, is it your understanding that Indian River	21	A. No. I don't.
22	School Board members could have offered the prayer	22	Q. We're coming to the end, Mrs. Bunting.
23	that I gave you, please Lord, convert the heathen	23	It's good when you don't even have to ask a question
24	among us?	24	and someone hands you what you need. Have you
	117		119
1	A. They wouldn't have.	1	did you do anything to prepare for this deposition?
2	Q. Could they have?	2	A. Did I do anything?
3	A. Well, I guess they possibly could have, but	3	Q. Yes, ma'am.
4	again they wouldn't have.	4	A. Obviously I should have, but no.
5	Q. Over the course of the over the course	5	Q. Did meet with your attorneys?
6	of this litigation, have you ever had occasion to	6	A. Oh, they met with us, what last week one
7	read the First Amendment of the Constitution?	7	day last week.
8	A. No. Like I said, I can read something and	8	MR. SHAW: I can't answer
9	forget it tomorrow.	9	questions.
10	Q. You understand that the right to free	10	<ul> <li>A. Oh, you are not allowed to answer</li> </ul>
11	exercise of religion is found in the First Amendment	11	questions. It was one day last week I met with two
12	of our Constitution?	12	other people just to, we had never done anything
13	A. I think that we read the First Amendment	13	like this before, to let us know a few things.
14	aloud to the children on the first day of school	14	Q. Did who were the other two people
15	every year, is that what we would have read?	15	present during that meeting?
16	Q. Don't know.	16	A. I was in with Janet Hern and Donna
17	A. I think so.	17	Mitchell.
40	63 1.5 511 5	. 40	C) Did your last, at any descript and all of a 44 - 4

of religion by the government?

Q. In all events, you do understand that the

First Amendment is where freedom of religion is

A. Yes, I guess, you're reminding me of it.

Amendment has language prohibiting the establishment

Q. Do you also understand that the First

18

19

20 21

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meeting?

Q. Did you look at any documents during that

MR. SHAW: I'm going to object to

what actually occurred at that meeting as

protected by attorney/client privilege.

120

MR. ALLINGHAM: Incorrect.

Q. Did you look at any documents during that

```
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE
                                                                      1
                                                                                     MR. SHAU: My name is Jarrod Shau, and I
      MONA DOBRICH and MARCO
                                                                      2
                                                                            represent the defendants in this litigation.
      DOBRICH, Individually and
      as parents and next friend of ALEXANDER DOBRICH
                                                                      3
                                                                                          SUSAN S. BUNTING, Ed.D.,
                                                                      4
                                                                                 the deponent herein, having first been
      SAMANTHA DOBRICH, JANE DOE
                                                                      5
                                                                                 duly sworn on oath, was examined and
      and JOHN DOE, Individually
      and as parents and next friend of JORDAN DOE and
                                                                      6
                                                                                 testified as follows:
                                                                      7
                                                                            BY MR. LENHARD:
      JAMIE DOE.
                                                                      8
                                                                              Q. Good morning, Dr. Bunting.
              Plaintiffs,
                                                                      9
                                                                              A. Good morning.
                             ) Čivil Action
) No. 05-120 (JJF)
                               Ćivil Action
                                                                      10
                                                                              Q. Have you ever been deposed before?
      ٧.
                                                                      11
      INDIAN RIVER SCHÓOL,
                                           )
                                                                      12
                                                                              O.
                                                                                   What action was that in?
      DISTRICT, et al.,
                                                                      13
                                                                              A. It had to do with a business that we formerly
              Defendants.
                                                                      14
                                                                            had here many years ago. The business closed maybe
               Videotaped Deposition of SUSAN S.
      BUNTING, Ed.D., taken pursuant to notice at 31 Hosier Street, Selbyville, Delaware, beginning at 9:00 a.m., on Wednesday, October 25, 2006, before Terry Barbani Burke, RMR-CRR and Notary Public.

APPEARANCES:
                                                                            20 years ago.
                                                                      15
                                                                      16
                                                                              Q. But it had nothing to do with Indian River
                                                                      17
                                                                            School District?
                                                                      18
                                                                              A. Absolutely not, no.
            THOMAS ALLINGHAM, ESQUIRE
BRIAN LENHARD, ESQUIRE
                                                                      19
                                                                              Q. Before we begin, I'd like to go over the
             One Rodney Square
Wilmington, Delaware 19801
                                                                      20
                                                                            deposition and what's going to happen today. I'm going
                                                                      21
                                                                            to ask you a series of questions. The deposition is
             For the Plaintiff
                                                                      22
                                                                            being videotaped and it's also being transcribed. When
                    WILCOX & FETZER
         1330 King Street - Wilmington, Delaware 19801
(302) 655-0477
                                                                      23
                                                                            I ask you a question if you could give an oral answer,
                                                                      24
                                                                            an out loud answer so the court reporter can transcribe
                   www.wilfet.com
                                                                                                    3
                                                                            it, that would be very helpful, instead of uh-huh or
      APPEARANCES (cont'd):
                                                                      1
 1
 2
            JARROD SHAU, ESQUIRE
                                                                      2
                                                                            shaking your head.
            Drinker, Biddle & Reath, LLP
                                                                      3
                                                                                     Also, please wait until I ask the
 3
             One Logan Square
                                                                            question, and I'll try to do the same and wait until
                                                                      4
             18th and Cherry Streets
                                                                      5
                                                                            you answer the question before asking the next
             Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-6996
 4
             For the Defendants
                                                                      6
                                                                            question. The court reporter can only take down one
5
                                                                      7
                                                                            person's conversation at a time.
      ALSO PRESENT:
                                                                      8
                                                                                      If you don't understand my question,
6
                                                                      9
                                                                            please ask me to clarify it or to rephrase it. If you
           TIMOTHY KEARNS
7
                                                                      10
                                                                            don't ask me to clarify it, we'll presume that in the
           MARK BUCKMASTER, Videographer
8
                                                                      11
                                                                            future a judge or jury looking at the videotape or
               VIDEO SPECIALIST: This is the videotape
9
                                                                            reading the transcript will presume that you understood
                                                                      12
      deposition of Dr. Susan S. Bunting, taken by the
10
                                                                      13
                                                                            the question.
11
      plaintiff in the matter of Dobrich, et al., versus
                                                                      14
                                                                                     If at any time you want to take a break,
      Indian River School District, et al, Civil Action No.
12
                                                                      15
                                                                            please let me know. If there's a question pending,
13
      15-120, held at 31 Hosier Street, Selbyville, Delaware,
14
      on October 25th, 2006, at approximately 9:02 a.m.
                                                                      16
                                                                            I'll ask you to answer the question first but then
15
               The court reporter is Terry Burke from
                                                                      17
                                                                            we'll take a break. The DVD tapes are one hour long so
      the firm of Wilcox & Fetzer. My name is Mark
16
                                                                      18
                                                                            we'll take a break every hour anyway.
      Buckmaster, a video specialist from Discovery Video
17
                                                                     19
                                                                                     Are you feeling well today?
18
      Services, Incorporated, in association with Wilcox &
                                                                     20
19
      Fetzer.
20
               Counsel will now introduce themselves and
                                                                              Q. Are you taking any medication that might make
                                                                     21
      the reporter will swear in the witness.
21
                                                                     22
                                                                            it difficult for you to understand and answer my
22
               MR. LENHARD: My name is Brian Lenhard
                                                                     23
                                                                            questions?
23
      and I represent the plaintiffs in this litigation, and
                                                                     24
                                                                              A. I don't believe so.
      I'm here with Tom Allingham and Tim Kearns.
```

#### Bunting, Susan 10/25/2006 4:41:00 PM

1	Q.	Do you agree with the first phrase in the
---	----	---

- 2 paragraph numbered one that says, "In order to
- solemnify its proceedings," is that a fair summary of 3
- 4 the answer you just gave?
- 5 A. Yes.

6

8

24

4

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- Q. Were you involved in policy committee meetings
- 7 where this policy was discussed?
  - A. Yes. Usually it takes several meetings, so
- 9 I'm sure at some of those meetings I was involved.
- 10 Q. Will you give me a number of how many meeting:
- 11 you think you were involved at at which this was
- 12 discussed?
- 13 A. No, I can't. I'd have to --
- 14 Q. More than two?
- 15 A. Possibly. Usually there's a process that's
- involved in devising any policy where it's usually 16
- 17 worked on at the policy committee. The policy, the
- 18
- proposed policy, a draft is shared with administrators
- throughout the district. It goes to the board. It has 19
- 20 a first reading. During the process of the next month,
- it is revisited. The committee probably looks at it 21
- 22 again. The board members receive comments at times
- about proposed policies so that they are prepared when 23
  - it comes up at a second board meeting to make a

- other paragraphs or deleting certain of these
- 2 paragraphs that are included?
- A. This may have come from some other source, an 3
- 4 what Mr. Walls would sometimes say to the policy
- 5 committee members would be, can we find an existing
- 6 sample that we then can take a look at and draft a 7 similar one, an identical one. That's often the
- 8 process. So I'm not sure where these words
- 9 originally -- where they came from originally.
  - Q. Does he say those words in substance at the beginning of the procedure? Let me back up. Is the policy committee given direction from the board to
- 13 draft a policy on a certain area?
- 14 A. At times.

1

10

11

12

- Q. For this policy, was it given any direction by 15 16
- A. Probably. That we needed a board policy that 17 18 would deal with school prayer.
- Q. You don't have any recollection that the board 19 did not direct the policy committee to draft this 20
- 21 policy?
- 22 A. I don't have any recollection that they did
- 23 not.

2

24 Q. And my question is, assuming for the purposes

81

83

- decision on whether or not this should be put into 1 2 policy.
- 3 Q. That answer you just gave was a general description of policy approval; correct?
  - A. Yes.
- Q. Was that procedure followed with regard to 6 7 this policy?
- A. Without taking a look at minutes from -- this 8
- 9 goes back to October of 2004, I'd have to say that was
- the procedure that was followed. 10
- 11 Q. You have no affirmative recollection that the
- 12 procedure was not followed?
- 13 A. Correct.
- 14 Q. Do you have any recollection of specific
- 15 discussions about this policy in the policy committee
- 16 meetings?
- 17 A. About --
- 18 Q. About the components of this policy?
- A. I have no recollection of specific 19
- 20 discussions.
- 21 Q. Mr. Walls never suggested any other drafts or
- 22 modifications to this policy during those meetings?
- 23 A. Can you be specific?
- 24 Q. Was there a general discussion about including

- of this question the board did direct the policy 1
  - committee to draft a policy on board prayer regular
- 3 board meetings, did Mr. Walls begin the process by
- 4 saying, you know, the procedure around here is maybe
- 5 could look to some other policy from someone else and
- 6 either use it in its identical form or shape it to our
- 7 own needs as necessary?
- 8 A. I can't remember exact words from any meeting 9 two years ago.
- 10 Q. What I'm trying to get at is, did he start the
- 11 process by saying let's get a policy from someone else
- 12 or did it ever occur to him to draft his own policy or, excuse me, the policy committee to draft its own 13
- 14 policy?
- 15
- A. It may have been a combination. I really don't remember the origin of how we got started on the 16
- 17 draft that eventually went to the board.
- Q. Do you remember any drafts that are 18
- substantially different from this one? 19
- 20 A. I think at one point there might have been a
- 21 paragraph version of this, but the difference would be
- 22 this has one, two, three, four, five as opposed to
- 23 being in a paragraph.
- 24 MR. LENHARD: Dr. Bunting, we're close to

## Cohee, Richard (Video) 10/17/2006 1:17:00 PM

		<del></del>	
		1	
1	IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT	1	
2 3	FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE  MONA DOBRICH and MARCO : C.A. No. 15-120 (JJF)	2	
٠	DOBRICH, Individually and :	3	TABLE OF CONTENTS
4	as parents and next friend :	i	
_	of ALEXANDER DOBRICH, :	4	TESTIMONY OF RICHARD COHEE:
5	SAMANTHA DOBRICH, JANE DOE : and JOHN DOE, Individually :	5	Direct Examination by Mr. Lenhard 4
6	and as parents and next ;	6	Certificate of Reporter
_	friend of JORDAN DOE and :	7	
7	JAMIE DOE, :	ı	
8	Plaintiffs, :	8	
	:	9	
9	v. :	10	
10	INDIAN RIVER SCHOOL :	11	
	DISTRICT, et al.,	1	
11	Defendante .	12	
12	Defendants. :	13	
13	Videotaped Deposition of RICHARD COHEE,	14	
	taken pursuant to notice, on Tuesday, October 17, 2006	i	
14	at 1;17 p.m. at 31 Hosier Street, Selbyville, Delaware, reported by Lorena J. Hartnett, a Registered	15	
15	Professional Reporter and Notary Public.	16	
16	***************************************	17	
17	APPEARANCES: BRIAN G. LENHARD, ESQUIRE	18	
18	RICHARD HORVATH, ESQUIRE	l l	
19	One Rodney Square	19	
	Wilmington, DE 19801	20	
20 21	Attorney for the Plainliff	21	
22	WILCOX & FETZER	22	
	1330 King Street - Wilmington, DE 19801		
23	302-655-0477 www.wilfet.com	23	
24	MANUAL CONTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPE	24	
		2	VIDEOGRAPHER: This is the videotaped
1		1	
2	APPEARANCES (CONTINUED):	2	deposition of Mr. Richard Cohee taken by the
3	JASON P. GOSSELIN, ESQUIRE	3	plaintiff in the matter of Dobrich et al
	Drinker, Biddle & Reath, LLP	4	versus Indian River School District, et al,
4	One Logan Square	5	Case Number 15-120. This deposition is
	18th and Cherry Streets		·
5	Philadelphia, PA 19103-6996	6	being held at 31 Hosier Boulevard, We are
	Attorney for the Defendants	7	going on the record on October 17, 2006 at
6		8	approximately 1:17 p.m.
		9	The court reporter is Lorena Hartnett
7		l	
8		10	from the firm of Wilcox and Fetzer,
9		11	Wilmington, Delaware. My name is Lindsay
10		12	DuPhily. I am the videotape specialist with
11		13	Discovery Video Services.
12			•
13	•	14	Counsel will now introduce themselves
14		15	and the court reporter will swear in the
15		16	witness.
		17	MR. LENHARD: My name is Brian
16		ł	•
		18	Lenhard, and I represent the plaintiffs in
17		19	this action.
17 18		, , ,	
		1	MR. GOSSELIN: Jason Gosselin for
18		20	MR. GOSSELIN: Jason Gosselin for
18 19 20		1	MR. GOSSELIN: Jason Gosselin for defendants.
18 19 20 21		20	
18 19 20 21 22		20 21	defendants. RICHARD COHEE,
18 19 20 21 22 23		20 21 22 23	defendants.  RICHARD COHEE,  HAVING FIRST BEEN DULY SWORN, TESTIFIED AS FOLLOWS:
18 19 20 21 22		20 21 22	defendants. RICHARD COHEE,

Unsigned

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### Cohee, Richard (Video) 10/17/2006 1:17:00 PM

A. The regular board meetings are scheduled monthly. They are posted in advance. The agenda for that meeting is posted in advance. The locations for the regular board meetings are alternated between, now between Indian River High School, the new one, and Sussex Central High School, the new one.

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The meetings start at 7:30, most evenings, the regular meeting starts at 7:30. There are times when we may have a special meeting or start the meeting early and have an executive session issue prior to the regular meeting, but we have always -not always, but we try it make it a policy that we do not keep the public that's there for the public 7:30 meeting waiting.

So if we have a short executive session, we come out at 7:30, have the public portion and, if need be, go back to executive session later on. We learned that a number of years ago on an issue, and that has worked rather well for us.

The meeting, itself, is called to order by the board president. Attendance is taken. You have the introduction of the colors by the ROTC from either high school, approval of the agenda, approval of minutes. And my order may be off a little bit. And

1 there, for the most part?

2 A. Normally, for various reasons.

Q. Does the board invite them?

A. Um, I don't know that the board invites. !

5 am not sure how the current board president and the

6 superintendent prepare the agenda. A lot of the 7 students that come are there for different types of

8 recognition. I think that is put together by staff.

9 Q. Are they there when the meeting is called to 10 order?

A. They can be.

12 Q. Has student government always been at the 13

14 A. Um, student government was added to the 15 meetings. When I first came on board it wasn't there.

Q. And did you move for student government to be at the meeting?

A. Yes, I did, ninety -- I came on '93. I don't know if it was '93 or '94, maybe even '95, but it was early in my tenure there.

21 Q. And why did you do that?

A. We had a -- We had a -- Periodically we had student reports of the various activities in the

24 school in an informal way at the meetings, and they

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- 1 then we go into new business, old business, personnel 2 issues, and down the list.
  - Q. When you ran through the agenda, did you mention prayer in that list of things that you did?
  - A. I did not mention that, no.
- Q. And where does that fit in? 6
  - A. That fits in prior to, I believe, the -- As many times as we have done it, I am going blank whether it's prior to the colors or after the colors.
  - Q. Is there a history of student attendance at these school board meetings?
- 12 A. There are students in attendance at the 13 meeting, yes.
  - Q. And how far back does that go?

A. I would guess but for maybe a couple summer meetings, most of the meetings probably have some students in attendance and probably have since I have been with the board.

Occasionally in the summertime the attendance is very light when school is not in session. I can't say that there weren't any students there, but that would probably be the time when there would be the biggest opportunity to not have students there.

Q. But during the school year there is students

- 1 would come up and they would tell you what's going on,
  - how the football game was going and that kind of
- 3 thing, and I personally felt that it was good -- There
- 4 was some talk at one point when actually a couple
- 5 districts supported having a student board member, and
- 6 I just thought it would be beneficial to the children
- 7 or to the students to have their spot on our agenda.
- 8 to be recognized there. That was my feelings on that.
- 9 Q. So it was your motion that is the driving 10 force in getting the student government to the
- 11 meeting?
  - A. I had made the motion, yes.
- 13 Q. But the superintendent would have done it on
- 14 her own?
- 15 A. Done what?
- Q. Well, I asked you a few minutes ago did the 16
  - board invite students to the meeting, and you said
- 18 depending what the superintendent does.
  - A. Uh-huh, uh-huh.
- 20 Q. Correct?
- 21 A. Uh-huh, yes. Sorry.
- 22 Q. But now my question now is it's because of
- 23 your motion that the superintendent asked those
- 24 students; correct?

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#### Cohee, Richard (Video) 10/17/2006 1:17:00 PM

1	see it as being threatening or disparaging and would
2	be acceptable.
2	O Do you think that this prover is

- Q. Do you think that this prayer is
- 4 proselytizing?

5

- A. That's what I just said, as you have read it,
- 6 I don't see it as such.
- 7 Q. Okay. All right, one more. It's even
- 8 shorter. Here is the prayer. "We pray, Lord,
- 9 enlighten the heathen in our midst, inspire them to
- 10 come to your wisdom and goodness. We ask these thir
- 11 in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen."
- 12 A. Read it one more time.
- 13 Q. "We pray, Lord, enlighten the heathen in our
- 14 midst, inspire them to come to your wisdom and
- 15 goodness. We ask these things in the name of Jesus
- 16 Christ. Amen."
- 17 A. "Inspire the heathen, we ask them to come to
- 18 you -- "What was that clause?
- Q. Wisdom and goodness.
- 20 A. Yeah, I would think that would violate the
- 21 section, as well.
- 22 Q. Okay. Do you think that non-Christians can
- 23 get elected to the school board?
- 24 A. Do I think they can?

1 meetings?

- 2 A. Any disruptions?
  - Q. Yes.
- 4 A. I don't recall any.
  - Q. Do you recall whether there was a prayer
- 6 given at the August 24, 2004 meeting? That was the
  - one we played for you on the videotape.
- A. Um, I think that there was, but I don't know
   for certain.
- o ioi certain.
- 10 Q. If you look at the first, on the first page
- 11 in the first paragraph.
- 12 A. Of the minutes?
  - Q. Of the August 24, yes, 2004 minutes.
- 14 A. Okay, Dr. Hattier gave a prayer.
  - Q. Correct. Now, you heard on videotape the
- 16 laughter while Mr. Johnson was giving his public
- 17 comment?
  - A. I heard laughter and other sounds.
- 19 Q. Would you call that solemn?
- 20 A. Some of it I would, because some of it
- 21 sounded like they were in support of the statement as
- 22 far as I think I heard a couple amens and a couple
- 23 yes, and that's not laughter.
  - The laughter, I would say would probably not

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- 1 Q. Yes.
  - A. Why couldn't they?
- 3 Q. Do you think that the -- What do you think
- 4 the religious faith of most people in the Indian River
- 5 is?

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- 6 A. Religious faith would be mostly Christian.
- 7 Q. Has that ever been an issue in the school
- 8 board election?
  - A. I don't know that it's been an issue with
- 10 school board elections during my tenure, at least,
- prior to this. And I am not certain that it's been asole issue since this, but I do know that, from
- 13 reading comments by other opponents, and I can't even
- 14 recall who they were, there were some issues with the
- 15 board pursuing this by some, they were against it, so
- as minor -- Well, as minimal as that may be, I
- 17 wouldn't say minor, then it is an issue, yes. In
- 18 somebody's mind they don't agree with what the board
- 19 is doing here.
- 20 Q. There were board meetings on April 26, 2005 21 and May 24, 2005, and I will represent to you those
- and May 24, 2005, and I will represent to you mose
- 22 board minutes began with a moment of silence.
- 23 A. Okay.
- 24 Q. Do you recall any disruptions at those

- be solemn. However, it is the opportunity for the
   public to speak, and we have a policy for that. We
- 3 try to adhere to that policy, and it's difficult to
- 4 control what one says at the podium. It's also
- 5 difficult to control what the audience participants
  - interject.
  - Q. Do you think it matters to the audience whether you give a prayer or a moment of silence
- 9 before the school board meeting?
- A. I don't know whether it matters to the
  audience or not. It matters to the board, and we do
- 12 it for the board. We don't do it for the audience.
  - MR. LENHARD: I think I am getting
- 14 close to the end, and I am going to suggest 15 we take a few minute break for me to review
- the notes.
  - THE WITNESS: Okay.
- 18 VIDEOGRAPHER: Going off the record at approximately 4:02 p.m.
- 20 (A recess was taken.)
- 21 VIDEOGRAPHER: We are back on the
- 22 record at approximately 4:09 p.m.
- 23 BY MR. LENHARD:
- 24 Q. Mr. Cohee, do you remember the audience

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O N F I D E N T I A L IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
                                                                                  testified as follows:
                                                                       1
                                                                       2
                                                                             BY MR. SHAU:
               FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE
                                                ) CONFIDENTIA
                                                                       3
       MONA DOBRICH and MARCO
                                                                               Q. Let me just add, Mrs. Doe, I'm going to
       DOBRICH, Individually and
                                                                       4
                                                                             attempt to try to ask questions that won't lead you
       as parents and next friend of ALEXANDER DOBRICH
                                                                       5
                                                                             down the path of saying your name or your children's
       SAMANTHA DOBRICH, JANE DOE
                                                                       6
                                                                             names, but in the event that I do, don't worry about it
       and JOHN DOE, Individually
                                                                       7
                                                                             and we will be able to remedy it later.
       and as parents and next
                                                                       8
                                                                               A. Okay.
       friend of JORDAN DOE and
       JAMIE DOE,
                                                                       9
                                                                               Q. My name is Jarrod Shau, and I represent the
                                                                       10
                                                                             defendants in this action.
               Plaintiffs,
                               Ćivil Action
                                                                       11
                                                                                      I am going to ask you a bunch of
                                No. 05-120
                                                                       12
                                                                             questions about various things that have occurred, and
       INDIAN RIVER SCHÓOL
                                                                       13
                                                                             I ask that if you don't understand the question, you
       DISTRICT, et al.,
                                                                       14
                                                                             ask me to rephrase it, or if you don't hear it, you ask
                                                                       15
                                                                             me to ask it again.
               Defendants.
      Deposition of JANE DOE, taken pursuant to notice at Drinker, Biddle & Reath, 1100 North Market Street, Suite 1000, Wilmington, Delaware, beginning at 1:30 p.m., on Tuesday, December 5, 2006, before Terry Barbano Burke, RMR-CRR and Notary Public.
                                                                       16
                                                                                       If you answer the question as it's asked
                                                                       17
                                                                             on the record, it's going to look like you understood
                                                                       18
                                                                             the question.
                                                                       19
                                                                               A. Uh-huh.
       APPEARANCES:
                                                                      20
            THOMAS J. ALLINGHAM, II, ESQUIRE
                                                                               Q. So if you need for me to repeat it or rephrase
             One Rodney Square
Wilmington, Delaware 19801
For the Plaintiff
                                                                      21
                                                                             it, please ask me to and I will be happy to.
                                                                      22
                                                                                      One other thing is the court reporter
         WILCOX & FETZER
1330 King Street - Wilmington, Delaware 19801
(302) 655-0477
                                                                      23
                                                                             can't see uh-huh or when you shake your head, so if you
                                                                      24
                                                                             could answer affirmatively or negatively, however you
      APPEARANCES (cont'd):
 2
                                                                             choose, that would be appreciated by the court
                                                                       1
 3
            JARROD SHAU, ESQUIRE
                                                                       2
                                                                             reporter.
            Drinker, Biddle & Reath, LLP
                                                                       3
                                                                              Α.
                                                                                  Okay.
 4
             One Logan Square
                                                                       4
                                                                               Q. If you need to take a break at any point, just
             18th and Cherry Streets
                                                                       5
             Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-6996
                                                                            let me know, we can stop whenever you want. If you
 5
             For the Defendants
                                                                       6
                                                                            want water or to use the rest room, please let me know.
 6
                                                                       7
                                                                                      Mrs. Doe, have you ever been deposed
      ALSO PRESENT:
                                                                       8
                                                                            before?
7
                                                                       9
                                                                              A.
           TIMOTHY KEARNS
8
                                                                      10
                                                                              Q. What did you do to prepare for this
                                                                      11
                                                                            deposition?
9
                                                                      12
                                                                              A.
                                                                                   Spoke with my lawyer.
10
               MR. ALLINGHAM: While we were off the
                                                                      13
                                                                              Q.
                                                                                   Your lawyer, Mr. Allingham?
11
      record, Mr. Shau and I agreed that we would all try to
                                                                      14
                                                                              Α.
12
      refer to the witness by her pseudonym of Jane Doe and
13
      to members of her family by the pseudonyms given ther
                                                                      15
                                                                              Q. When did you speak with Mr. Allingham?
14
      in the complaint.
                                                                      16
                                                                              Α.
                                                                                  Thursday.
15
               We have also agreed, and I want to
                                                                      17
                                                                                   Did you review any documents during that
16
      express my appreciation to Mr. Shau for this
                                                                      18
                                                                            preparation?
17
      suggestion, that we will each, to the extent anyone
                                                                      19
                                                                              A.
                                                                                  No
18
      slips up, we can substitute the appropriate pseudonym
19
      in the final transcript so the anonymity of the witness
                                                                      20
                                                                                  Have you spoken with anyone else regarding
20
      and the members of her family will again be preserved,
                                                                      21
                                                                            your deposition today?
21
      and I again appreciate that.
                                                                      22
                                                                              A.
                                                                                   Just my husband.
22
                    JANE DOE,
                                                                      23
                                                                              Q.
                                                                                   Mrs. Doe, what town do you currently live in?
23
           the deponent herein, having first been
                                                                      24
24
                                                                                  Dagsboro, Delaware.
           duly sworn on oath, was examined and
```

1 it didn't seem to us that board members were rotating.

- 2 Q. So after reading the policy --
- 3 A. And --
- 4 Q. I'm sorry, please finish.
  - A. And on No. 3, we did feel that the way the
- 6 board gave their prayer was proselytizing.
  - Q. I would like to ask you a few questions about
- 8

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- 9 So when you discussed it, you felt that 10 some of the board prayers that you had heard in the past were proselytizing? 11
- 12 A. Yes. If proselytizing is to advance one
- 13 particular religion, is that what we agree on?
- Q. If that's your definition, that's fine. 14
- 15 A. Then, yes, that would be the case.
- 16 Q. And it's accurate to say you had only attended
- 17 two board meetings at the time you reviewed this
- 18 policy?
- 19 A. Right.
- 20 Q. Did the board prayer at those --
- 21 A. I'm sorry. I forgot one of the board
- meetings. Can we go back? 22
- 23 Q. Sure.
- 24 A. The August 24th school board meeting.

- 1 Q. And spring of 2004, do you recall if there was
- 2 a prayer?

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- A. Yes.
- 4 Q. Do you remember who gave that prayer?
  - A. There was a gentleman, I believe it was
- 6 Reginald Helms, or it could have been John Evans. I'm
- 7 not sure exactly.
- 8 Q. Do you remember what that prayer was?
  - A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Do you remember the exact words of the prayer?
  - A. I remember the exact words of the end of the
- 12 prayer, "and in Jesus' name we pray."
  - Q. Before the prayer started, did Mr. Evans or
- 14 Mr. Helms, whomever gave the prayer, ask you to bow
- 15 your head?
  - A. I believe so, but I can't be sure.
- 17 Q. So you don't remember whether or not he did?
  - A. I know that we had been asked to bow our head
- 19 before and I'm not sure if that was the meeting.
- Q. Were you asked to bow your head at the August 20
- 21 24th, 2004 meeting?
- 22 A. I can't recall specifically.
- 23 Q. Is it fair to say you don't remember any
- 24 specific instance of you being asked to bow your head,

13

- 1 Q. August 24?
- 2 A. Uh-huh.
- 3 Q. Did you sign in at the August 24th, 2004 board
- 4 meeting?
- 5 A. No, I did not.
- Q. But you did attend the August 24th, 2004 board 6
- 7 meeting?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Did Mr. Doe attend that meeting?
- 10 Α.
- Q. Did either Jamie or Jordan attend that 11
- meeting? 12
- 13 A. No.
- Q. So I'll rephrase. 14
- 15 At the time you thought the board was,
- I'll use your word, advancing religion --16
- A. Uh-huh. 17
- 18 Q. -- through prayer, you had heard three prayers
- 19 at board meetings?
- 20 A. Well, I can't recall in 1998.
- 21 Q. So in 1998 you don't recall that there was a
- 22 prayer said?
- 23 A. I don't recall. I might have, you know,
- gotten there afterwards. I just can't recall.

- 1 you just generally remember that occurring at one of
- 2 the meetings you attended?
- 3 A. My recollection is that the impression given
- 4 was to bow your head for the prayer, but I can't recall
- 5 exactly whether we were specifically asked to bow our
  - heads. But I do remember bowing of heads.
- 7 Q. So it may have been just everyone in the area
- 8 bowed their heads and it just felt like you should have
- 9 bowed your head?
- 10 A. That may be.
- Q. Did you bow your head during the prayer? 11
- 12
- 13 Q. Did you feel like you had to bow your head
- 14 during the prayer?
- 15 A. Well, I'm not sure what you mean by "had to."
- Can you rephrase that? 16
- Q. Sure. 17
- 18 Even though you didn't bow your head,
  - did you feel any pressure?
- 20

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- 21 Q. However, you decided that you weren't going to
- 22 bow your head?
- 23 A. Correct.
- 24 Q. Why did you feel pressured to bow your head

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### Doe, Jane 12/5/2006 1:30:00 PM

even though you didn??  A. Well, I think what you describe as pressure is exactly right, it's peer pressure, you know, to bow your head. Everyone's bowing their head, so you would stand out if you didn't.  G. Did anybody say arrything to you about you not bowing your head?  A. No.  G. Let's go back, in the spring of 2004, when Mr. Helms or Mr. Evans gave the prayer and ended 'in it juesus' name,' how did that make you feel?  A. Well, we were there to make a presentation and it imade us feel uncomfortable and excluded. And that perhaps the board – well, that's it.  G. Do you remember the prayer that was given at the August 24th, 2004 meeting?  A. Yes.  G. Word they on the terragraph 3 you felt that be august 24th, 2004 meeting?  A. Yes.  G. Word whith your husband, did you find anything objectionable about the policy?  A. Yes.  A. Yes.  G. Wore there any religious indications in that 23 prayer?  A. Yes,  MR. ALLINGHAM: I object to the form of 17  The Quisting yard.  A. I would say the same as the other board meeting prayer.  A. I would say the same as the other board meeting prayer.  A. Well, it was a school board meeting and bord that was given at the policy?  A. Well, they be that prayer?  A. Yes.  A. Well, they be that prayer?  A. Well, they be that prayer in prayes make you feel?  A. Well, they be that prayer in prayes with your was discuss different aspects about it.  Prayergaph 1 reads, 'in order to selement of silence?  A. I would it be be advancing religion.  C. Word whith your husband, did you thind anything to be chirtled to be a children ference desus.  A. Yes.  G. Word whith your husband, did you find anything objectionable about the policy?  A. About this?  A. About this?  A. About that be policy with you now paragraph by paragraph and discuss different aspects about it.  Prayer or moment of of education may choose to open its meetings with a prayer or moment of silence?  A. I would it be okey with you if the board of education opened its meetings with a prayer in Cod's name?  MR. ALLINGHAM: I objec				
A Weil, I timk what you describe as pressure is exactly right, it's peer pressure, you know, to bow your head. Everyone's bowing their head, so you would stand out if you didn't.  G. Did anybody say anything to you about you not bowing your head?  A. No.  G. Let's go back, in the spring of 2004, when Mr. Helms or Mr. Evens gave the prayer and ended 'in Jesus' name," how did that make you feel?  A. Weil, Let's use a long prayer and I do not think it it dererance Jesus, though, did he?  A. Weil, Lik was a long prayer and I do not think it it dererance Jesus, though, did he?  A. Weil, Lik was a long prayer and I do not think it it dererance Jesus, though, did he?  A. Weil, Lik was a long prayer and I do not think it it dererance Jesus, though, did he?  A. Weil, Lik was a long prayer and I do not think it it dererance Jesus, though, did he?  A. Weil, Lik was a long prayer and I do not think it it dererance Jesus, though, did he?  A. Weil, Lik was a long prayer and I do not think it it dererance Jesus, though, did he?  A. Weil, Lik was a long prayer and I do not think it it dererance Jesus, though, did he?  A. Weil, Lik was a long prayer and I do not think it it dererance Jesus, though, did he?  A. Weil, Lik was a long prayer and I do not think it it dererance Jesus, though, did he?  A. Weil, Lik was a long prayer and I do not think it it dererance Jesus, though, did he?  A. Weil, Lik was a long prayer and I do not think it it dererance Jesus, though, did he?  A. Weil, Lik was a long prayer and I do not think it it dererance Jesus, though, did he?  A. Weil, Lik was a long prayer and I do not think it it dererance Jesus, though, did he?  A. Weil, Lik was a long prayer and I do not think it that the board did use the prayer to proselytize or it that the board did use the prayer to proselytize or it that the board did use the prayer to proselytize or it that the board with the policy?  A. Yes.  A. Wes.				
sexactly right, it's peer pressure, you know, to bow your head. Everyone's bowing their head, so you would stand out if you didn't.  G. Did anybody say anything to you about you not bowing your head?  A. No.  G. Let's go back, in the spring of 2004, when to bowing your head?  A. No.  G. Let's go back, in the spring of 2004, when to wind the peer share, "Involved that make you feel it made us feel uncomfortable and excluded. And that perhaps the board — well, that's it.  G. Do you emember the prayer that was given at the headquat 24th, 2004 meeting?  A. Yes.  G. Who gave that prayer?  A. Yes.  G. Who gave that prayer?  A. Yes.  G. Wore there any religious indications in that prayer?  MR. ALLINGHAM: I object to the form of the question. You can answer.  THE WITNESS: It mentioned God.  BY MR. SHAU:  M. Yes you feel— A. I would say the same as the other board meeting prayer.  G. How did Dr. Hattler's prayer make you feel?  A. Well, twas a school board meeting and bor. Hattler knew us and it promoted one religion?  A. Well, it was a school board meeting and bor. Hattler knew us and it promoted one religion.  C. How did It make you feel like it was promoting religion?  A. Well, it was a school board meeting and bor. Hattler knew us and it promoted one religion.  C. How did It make you feel like it was promoting religion?  A. Well, twas a school board meeting and bor. Hattler knew us and it promoted one religion.  C. How did It make you feel like it was promoting religion?  A. Well, the tother unamous signs around the room of people promoting Christianity and shouting amen, and hallelujah, I would say that it promoted Christianity.  G. Let's try and take for a moment all of the people in the crowd with their signs and shouting amen, act as though it did:  H. The promoting christianity and shouting amen, act as though it did:  H. The promoting charge and the promoted christianity.  G. Let's try and take for a moment all of the people in the crowd with their signs and shouting amen, act as though it did:  H. The promoti	1	even though you didn't?	1	given whatever he said without any of that, would you
4 your head. Everyone's bowing their head, so you would stand out if you didn't. 5 Ch. Did anybody say anything to you about you not bowing your head? 6 A. No. 7 C. Let's go back, in the spring of 2004, when Mr. Heims or Mr. Evans gave the prayer and ended "in Mr. Heims or Mr. Evans gave the prayer and ended "in Jesus' name," how did that make you feel? A. Well, we were there to make a presentation and it made us feel uncomfortable and excluded. And that perhaps the board — well, that's it. 6 C. Do you remember the prayer that was given at the August 24th, 2004 meeting? 7 A. Yes. 8 Q. Who gave that prayer? 9 A. Donald Hatter. 9 Q. Do you remember the prayer? 10 A. Yes. 11 The WITNESS: It mentioned God. 12 BY MR. ALLINGHAM: I object to the form of 17 16 the question. You can answer. 17 THE WITNESS: It mentioned God. 18 BY MR. SHAU: 19 Q. How did Dr. Hattler's prayer make you feel? A. I would say the same as the other board meeting prayer. 10 Q. It made you feel — A. I would say the same as the other board meeting prayer. 10 Q. It made you feel — A. That it was promotting religion. 10 Q. What religion did it more defenced. 11 A. That it was promoting religion. 12 Q. How did It make you feel like it was promoting religion. 13 Prayer in the duculation pened its meetings with a moment of silence? 14 A. Well, it was a school board meeting and 15 Dr. Hattler knew us and it promoted one religion. 20 Q. How Hattler is prayer make you feel? 31 A. Well, it was a school board meeting and 15 Dr. Hattler knew us and it promoted one religion. 21 Q. Whot religion id it promoted? 22 Q. Wou can answer. 23 A. Well, due to the numerous signs around the room of peopole promoting Christianity as shouting amen, and hallelujah, I would say that it promoted one religion. 22 Q. Whot religion is the propole in the crowd with their signs and shouting amen, and hallelujah, I would say that it promoted one religion. 33 A to skought id info happen, altituoply it did. 34 If Dr. Hattlier had given his prayer or	2	A. Well, I think what you describe as pressure is	2	have found it to be advancing religion?
5 stand out if you didn't.  6 Q. Did anybody say anything to you about you not bowing your head?  8 A. No.  9 Q. Let's go back, in the spring of 2004, when 10 Mr. Helms or Mr. Evans gave the prayer and ended 'in 1 Jesus' same,' how did that make you feel?  10 A. Well, we were there to make a presentation and it it made us feel uncomfortable and excluded. And that perhaps the board well, that's it.  10 Q. Do you remember the prayer that was given at the board weeting?  11 Q. Who gave that prayer?  12 A. Yes.  13 Q. Who gave that prayer?  14 A. Yes.  15 Q. Were there any religious indications in that prayer?  16 A. Do you remember that prayer?  17 A. Yes.  18 Q. Were there any religious indications in that prayer?  19 A. Well, it were any religious indications in that prayer?  10 Q. Were there any religious indications in that office defined.  17 Use the question. You can answer.  18 YMR. SHAU:  19 The question. You can answer.  19 The with the promoted one religion.  20 Q. He didn't reference Jesus, though, did he?  21 A. Well, it was a long prayer and I do not think it did reference Jesus.  22 Q. You mentioned before that Paragraph 3 you felt that the board did use the prayer end I do not think it did reference Jesus.  23 User develoption of the prayer that was given at the prayer of the prayer in the prayer of prayer of advance religion.  21 A. Yes.  22 Q. Were pour femember that prayer?  23 A. Yes.  24 Were gour femember that prayer?  25 A. I would say the same as the other board meeting prayer.  26 Q. He didn't reference Jesus.  27 Yes, about what's in front of you, PX-9?  28 A. So, that the board with you now paragraph by paragraph and discuss different aspects about it.  29 Prayer?  29 A. Were you offended by Dr. Hattier's prayer?  29 A. I would for Hattier's prayer make you feel?  20 A. I would for Hattier's prayer make you feel?  21 A. West, I was a school bo	3	exactly right, it's peer pressure, you know, to bow	3	A. Yes.
5 stand out if you didn't.  6 Q. Did anybody say anything to you about you not bowing your head?  8 A. No.  9 Q. Let's go back, in the spring of 2004, when 10 Mr. Helms or Mr. Evans gave the prayer and ended 'in 1 Jesus' same,' how did that make you feel?  10 A. Well, we were there to make a presentation and it it made us feel uncomfortable and excluded. And that perhaps the board well, that's it.  10 Q. Do you remember the prayer that was given at the board weeting?  11 Q. Who gave that prayer?  12 A. Yes.  13 Q. Who gave that prayer?  14 A. Yes.  15 Q. Were there any religious indications in that prayer?  16 A. Do you remember that prayer?  17 A. Yes.  18 Q. Were there any religious indications in that prayer?  19 A. Well, it were any religious indications in that prayer?  10 Q. Were there any religious indications in that office defined.  17 Use the question. You can answer.  18 YMR. SHAU:  19 The question. You can answer.  19 The with the promoted one religion.  20 Q. He didn't reference Jesus, though, did he?  21 A. Well, it was a long prayer and I do not think it did reference Jesus.  22 Q. You mentioned before that Paragraph 3 you felt that the board did use the prayer end I do not think it did reference Jesus.  23 User develoption of the prayer that was given at the prayer of the prayer in the prayer of prayer of advance religion.  21 A. Yes.  22 Q. Were pour femember that prayer?  23 A. Yes.  24 Were gour femember that prayer?  25 A. I would say the same as the other board meeting prayer.  26 Q. He didn't reference Jesus.  27 Yes, about what's in front of you, PX-9?  28 A. So, that the board with you now paragraph by paragraph and discuss different aspects about it.  29 Prayer?  29 A. Were you offended by Dr. Hattier's prayer?  29 A. I would for Hattier's prayer make you feel?  20 A. I would for Hattier's prayer make you feel?  21 A. West, I was a school bo	4	your head. Everyone's bowing their head, so you would	4	Q. Would you have still found it to be a
6 Q. Did anybody say anything to you about you not bowing your head? 8 A. No. 9 Q. Let's go back, in the spring of 2004, when Mr. Helmsor of Mr. Evans gave the prayer and ended "In Jesus name," how did that make you feel? 2 A. Well, we were there to make a presentation and it made us feel uncomfortable and excluded. And that perhaps the board — well, that's it. 9 Q. Do you remember the prayer that was given at the August 24th, 2004 meeting? 17 A. Yes. 18 Q. Who gave that prayer? 19 A. Donald Hattier. 20 Q. Do you remember that prayer? 21 A. Yes. 21 Q. Were there any religious indications in that prayer? 22 Q. Were there any religious indications in that prayer? 23 A. Yes. 24 MR. ALLINGHAM: I object to the form of 17  19  1 the question. You can answer. 2 THE WITNESS: It mentioned God. 3 BY MR. SHAU: 4 Q. Were you offended by Dr. Hattier's prayer and you feel have been added the prayer of the prayer and with promoted professing or religion? 4 A. I would say the same as the other board meeting prayer. 5 A. I would say the same as the other board meeting prayer. 6 Q. How did it make you feel like it was promoting religion? 7 Q. How did it make you feel like it was promoting religion? 8 A. Well, it was a school board meeting and brilled it have been for a moment all of the people in the crowd with their signs and shouting ame and halleluigh, I would say that it promoted? 6 Christianity, and take for a moment all of the people in the crowd with their signs and shouting amen, and as at shough it didn't happen, although it did.  2 If the contract of the prayer of t	5		5	
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9 Q. Let's go back, in the spring of 2004, when 10 Mr. Helms or Mr. Evans gave the prayer and ended "in 11 Jesus' name," how did that make you feel? 12 A. Well, we were there to make a presentation and it made us feel uncomfortable and excluded. And that the perhaps the board — well, that's it. 15 Q. Do you remember the prayer that was given at the board — well, that's it. 16 Q. Who gave that prayer? 17 A. Yes. 18 Q. Who gave that prayer? 19 A. Donald Hattier. 19 Q. Do you remember that prayer? 20 Q. Were there any religious indications in that prayer? 21 A. Yes. 22 Q. Were there any religious indications in that prayer? 23 Pargary? 24 MR. ALLINGHAM: I object to the form of 25 THE WITNESS: It mentioned God. 26 BY MR. SHAU: 27 Q. How did Dr. Hattier's prayer make you feel? 28 A. I would asy the same as the other board meeting prayer. 29 Q. Ut made you feel— 10 Q. It made you feel— 11 A. That it was promoting religion. 12 Q. How did It make you feel like it was promoting religion? 13 Religion? 14 A. Well, tit was a school board meeting and D. Dr. Hattier's prayer make you feel serving of the prayer in God's name? 19 A. Well, tit was a chool board meeting and D. Dr. Hattier's prayer make you feel? 29 A. Well, tit was a chool board meeting and D. Dr. Hattier's prayer make you feel? 29 A. Well, due to the numerous signs around the room of people promoting Christianity and shouting ame, and hallelujah, I would say that it promoted one religion. 20 C. Let's try and take for a moment all of the people in the crowd with their signs and shouting amen, and cast sthough it didn't happen, although it did. 21 Jesus and free free Jesus. 22 Q. What religion did it promoted one religion. 23 Silence, all in accord with the freedom and conscious of the individual adult board member." 35 Jene free free Jesus. 36 A. About the policy. With you now paragraph by paragraph and discuss different aspects about it. 36 Paragraph 1 reads, "In order to seleminity its proveding the board of education opened its meetings with a prayer or momen	8	••	8	
10 Mr. Helms or Mr. Evans gave the prayer and ended "In Jesus' name," how did that make you feel?  2 A. Well, we were there to make a presentation and it made us feel uncomfortable and excluded. And that perhaps the board - well, that is it. 14 perhaps the board - well, that is it. 15 Q. Do you remember the prayer that was given at the August 24th, 2004 meeting?  3 A. Yes.  3 Q. Who gave that prayer?  4 A. Donald Hattler.  5 Q. Do you remember that prayer?  6 A. Yes.  9 Q. Wore there any religious indications in that prayer?  10 A. Yes.  11 The question. You can answer.  11 The question. You can answer.  12 The WITNESS: It mentioned God.  13 BY MR. SHAU:  14 Q. Were you offended by Dr. Hattler's prayer?  15 A. I'm not exactly sure what you mean by offended.  16 Q. How did that make you feel like it was promoting religion:  17 Q. How did that make you feel like it was promoting religion:  18 Q. Wethey the same as the other board meeting prayer.  19 Q. What religion did it promote?  10 Q. What religion did it promoted one religion.  11 Q. Well, due to the numerous signs around the room of people promoting Christianity and shouting ame and hallelujah, I would say that it promoted one religion.  2 Q. What religion did it promoted one religion.  3 C. What religion did it promoted one religion.  4 Q. Well, due to the numerous signs around the room of people promoting Christianity and shouting ame and hallelujah, I would say that it promoted mand shouting ame and hallelujah, I would say that it promoted in the people in the crowd with their signs and shouting amen, act as though it didn't happen, although it did.  10 G. Let's try and take for a moment all of the people in the crowd with their signs and shouting amen, act as though it didn't happen, although it did.  15 I'd derference Jeusu.  16 that the board did use the prayer to proselytize or advance religion. What is in front of you, PX-9?  A. About this?  A. About this	9	Q. Let's go back, in the spring of 2004, when	9	
11 Jesus' name," how did that make you feel?  A. Well, we were there to make a presentation and 18 it made us feel uncomfortable and excluded. And that 19 perhaps the board – well, that's it.  D. Do you remember the prayer that was given at the August 24th, 2004 meeting?  A. Yes.  D. On Jour demember that prayer?  A. Yes.  D. Donald Hattler.  D. Do you remember that prayer?  A. Yes.  D. Were there any religious indications in that 21 prayer?  MR. ALLINGHAM: I object to the form of 17  The wirn of exactly sure what you mean by 6 offended.  A. I'm not exactly sure what you mean by 6 offended.  A. I'm not exactly sure what you mean by 6 offended.  A. I'm not exactly sure what you mean by 6 offended.  A. I'm not exactly sure what you mean by 6 offended.  A. I'm that was promoting religion.  A. That it was promoting religion.  A. That it was promoting religion.  A. Well, it was a school board meeting and 5 Dr. Hattler knew us and it promoted one religion.  A. Well, due to the numerous signs around the room of people promoting Christianity and shouting amen, act as though it didn't happen, although it did.  The wire were there to make a presentation and that the board of education and with you fiel that the board of education when you feel with you fiel that the board of education when you feel with you fiel with you fiel when you feel with you feel like it was promoting religion.  A. Well, the sa school board meeting and 5 Dr. Hattler knew us and it promoted one religion.  A. Well, due to the numerous signs around the room of people promoting Christianity and shouting amen, act as though it didn't happen, although it did.  J. C. You mentioned before that Paragraph and davut with sub in front of tyou, PX-9?  A. About this?  A. About this?  A. About that:  Paragraph 1 reads, "In order to 23 silemnity its proceeding, the board of education opened its meetings with a prayer or moment of silemnity.  Silemnity is pread, "In order to 24 silemnity and this promoted one religion of the use town whith the freedom and consciou				The state of the s
12 A. Well, we were there to make a presentation and it made us feel uncomfortable and excluded. And that perhaps the board —well, that's it. G. Do you remember the prayer that was given at the August 24th, 2004 meeting?  13 A. Yes.  14 C. Who gave that prayer?  15 A. Onald Hattier.  16 Q. Do you remember that prayer?  17 A. Yes.  18 Q. Who gave that prayer?  19 A. Donald Hattier.  20 Q. Were there any religious indications in that prayer?  21 A. Yes.  22 Q. Were there any religious indications in that prayer?  23 Prayer?  24 MR. ALLINGHAM: I object to the form of 17  19  1 the question. You can answer.  2 THE WITNESS: It mentioned God.  3 BY MR. SHAU:  4 Q. Were you offended by Dr. Hattier's prayer?  5 A. I'm not exactly sure what you mean by offended.  7 Q. How did Dr. Hattier's prayer make you feel?  8 A. I would say the same as the other board meeting prayer.  10 Q. It made you feel like it was promoting religion.  2 Q. How did it make you feel like it was promoting religion.  2 Q. Whore the numerous signs around the room of people promoting Christianity, and shouting amd and hallelujah, I would say that it promoted control of the question.  2 Q. Whet it was the prayer to proselytize or atth that the board did you find anything objectionable about it.  4 A. Post.  4 A. About this?  4 A. Not that I can recall.  4 B. I'd the policy with you now paragraph by paragraph and discuss different aspects about it.  4 Paragraph 1 reads, "in order to sofemnify its proceeding, the board of education may choose to open its meetings with a prayer or moment of silence?  4 MR. ALLINGHAM: I object to the form of the question.  5 Would it be okay with you if the board of education opened its meetings with a moment of silence?  6 MR. ALLINGHAM: I object to the form of the question of				
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15 doubt the policy? 16 the August 24th, 2004 meeting? 17 A. Yes. 18 Q. Who gave that prayer? 18 A. Donald Hattler. 20 Q. Do you remember that prayer? 21 A. Yes. 22 Q. Were there any religious indications in that 23 prayer? 24 MR. ALLINGHAM: I object to the form of 17  19  1 the question. You can answer. 2 THE WITNESS: It mentioned God. 3 BY MR. SHAU: 4 Q. Were you offended by Dr. Hattler's prayer? 5 A. I'm not exactly sure what you mean by offended. 7 Q. How did Dr. Hattler's prayer make you feel? A. I would say the same as the other board meeting prayer. 10 Q. It made you feel — 11 A. That it was promoting religion? 12 Q. How did it make you feel like it was promoting religion? 13 religion? 14 A. Well, it was a school board meeting and 15 Dr. Hattler knew us and it promoted one religion. 20 Christianity. 20 Q. Let's try and take for a moment all of the people in the crowd with the prayer or 21 A. Yes. 22 A. Not that I can recall. 24 A. Not that I can recall. 25 Q. I'd like to take a few moments to go through the policy with you now paragraph and discuss different aspects about it. 26 Paragraph 1 reads, "in order to solemnify its proceeding, the board of education may choose to open its meetings with a prayer or moment of silence? 3 silence, all in accord with the freedom and conscious of the individual adult board member." 4 Would it be okay with you if the board of education opened its meetings with a moment of silence? 5 MR. ALLINGHAM: I object to the form of the question. 5 You can answer. 7 THE WITNESS: It would be okay with me. 10 It wouldn't be my preference. 11 Would it be acceptable to you if the board opened with a prayer in God's name? 12 Q. But you would be able to tolerate that? 13 A. Uh-huh. 14 Q. Would it be acceptable to you if the board opened with a prayer in God's name? 15 Dr. Hattier knew us and it promoted one religion. 16 Q. What religion did it promote? 17 A. Well, due to the numerous signs around the room of people promoting Christianity and shouting ame, act as though it didn't happen,	1			
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## Evans. John (Video) 10/18/2006 9:13:00 AM

			Evans, John (video) 10/16/2006 9.13.00 AN
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1	IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT	1	
2	FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE  MONA DOBRICH and MARCO : C.A. No. 15-120 (JJF)	2	
	DOBRICH, Individually and :	3	TABLE OF CONTENTS
4	as parents and next friend : of ALEXANDER DOBRICH, :	4	TESTIMONY OF JOHN M. EVANS:
5	SAMANTHA DOBRICH, JANE DOE:	5	Direct Examination by Mr. Allingham 3
6	and JOHN DOE, Individually : and as parents and next :		·
	friend of JORDAN DOE and :	6	Certificate of Reporter168
7	JAMIE DOE,	7	
8	Plaintiffs, :	8	
		9	
9	<b>v.</b> :	10	
10	INDIAN RIVER SCHOOL :	11	
11	DISTRICT, et al.,	12	
• • •	Defendants. ;		
12	Videotaped Deposition of JOHN M. EVANS,	13	
13	taken pursuant to notice, on Wednesday, October 18,	14	
14	2008 at 9:13 a.m. at 31 Hosler Street, Selbyville,	15	
15	Delaware, reported by Lorena J. Hartnett, a Registered Professional Reporter and Notary Public.	16	
16	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	17	
17 18	APPEARANCES: THOMAS ALLINGHAM, ESQUIRE	18	
	RICHARD HORVATH, ESQUIRE		
19	BRIAN LENHARD, ESQUIRE One Rodney Square	19	
20	Wilmington, DE 19801	20	
21	Attorney for the Plaintiff	21	
22		22	
23	WILCOX & FETZER	23	
24	1330 King Street - Wilmington, DE 19801 (302) 655-0477	24	
	www.wilfet.com	-	
		2	4
1		1	VIDEOGRAPHER: Okay. This is the
2	APPEARANCES (CONTINUED):	2	videotaped deposition of John M. Evans taken
3	JARROD SHAU, ESQUIRE	3	by the plaintiffs in the matter of Dobrich
-	Drinker, Biddle & Reath, LLP	4	et al. versus Indian River School District,
4	One Logan Square		
	18th and Cherry Streets	5	et al., Civil Action Number 15-120.
5	Philadelphia, PA 19103-6996	6	The deposition is taking place at 31
_	Attorney for the Defendants	7	Hosier Boulevard in Selbyville, Delaware, on
6	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	8	October 18, 2006 at approximately 9:13 a.m
7		9	The court reporter is Larena Hartnett from
8		10	the firm of Wilcox and Fetzer.
9		11	My name is Mark Buckmaster, a video
10			
		12	specialist from Discovery Video Services
11		13	incorporated in association with Wilcox and
12		14	Fetzer. Counsel will now introduce
13		15	themselves and the reporter will swear in
14		16	the witness.
15		1	MR. ALLINGHAM: My name is Tom
16		17	,
17		18	Allingham. I represent the plaintiffs, and
18		19	with me are Richard Horvath and Brian
19		20	Lenhard.
20		21	MR. SHAU: My name is Jarrod Shew, and
21		22	I represent the defendants.
22			Contraction of an addition of the state of t
23		23	
24		24	
		1	

Unsigned

#### Evans. John (Video) 10/18/2006 9:13:00 AM

- 1 knowing Jesus. We also pray that you would be with
- 2 them at this time. We ask these things in Jesus's
  - name. Amen." Is that prayer permitted by or
- 4 prohibited by paragraph three?
  - A. Possibly the sentence, "We pray that you direct them into the truth and eventually the truth
- 7 that comes by knowing Jesus," that might be, that 8
  - might violate paragraph three.
    - Q. You would view that as proselytizing?
- A. Yes, I would. 10
- 11 Q. The next prayer may -- Your judgment about
- 12 the next prayer may seem obvious to you, but I am
- 13 going to ask it anyway. Suppose that a board member
- 14 offered the prayer, "Oh, Lord, convert the heathen
- 15 among us." That would violate it?
- A. That would definitely violate paragraph 16
- 17 three.

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- 18 Q. Yes, sir, or a prayer that said, "Oh, Lord,
- 19 bring the Jews in the audience to knowledge and love
- 20 of our savior, Jesus Christ."
- 21 A. It would violate paragraph three.
- 22 Q. And I have one last prayer for you. It's
- 23 short, but if you need me to read it again, I will.
- 24 "Allah, we offer you our school bus drivers. We offer

1 three.

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- 2 Q. Okay. Now, Mr. Evans, we talked earlier in
  - the deposition about the enforcement mechanism for
- 4 this paragraph, and I, I think we established that
- 5 it's the board members who are ultimately responsible
- 6 for enforcing all of the board prayer policy,
  - including paragraph three; correct?
- 8 A. Right.
- 9 Q. If a board member offered, I am going to take
- 10 the extreme example first or the most extreme example
- first, if a board member who was invited by the 11
- 12 president to open a meeting with a prayer said, "Lord,
- 13 we pray that you convert the Jews in the audience to
- 14 knowledge and love of your son, our Lord, Jesus
- 15 Christ," which you and I have agreed, I think, is
- 16 violative of paragraph three, --
- 17 A. Yes.
  - Q. -- what would you do as a board member?
- 19 A. What would I do?
  - Q. If you heard that prayer, what would you do?
- 21 A. Well, at that point it would be a little too
- 22 late to stop it, but I would -- I would have to talk
- 23 to the president that that person should be
- 24 reprimanded. Maybe that's a harsh word, but that

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- 1 you our superintendent, our administrators, and our
  - secretaries. We offer you our teachers and our
- 3 parents. Finally, we offer you our students. Peace
- be unto your prophet, Muhammed." Would you view tha 4
- as permitted or prohibited by paragraph three? 5
- A. Well, I don't know what the prayer means by 6 7 offer.
- Q. So, without knowing, you can't make a 8
- 9 judgment? 10 A. That's correct. I don't know. Whomever
- 11 would read that prayer, offer might mean something
- 12 different to them than it does to me.
  - Q. Well, let's explore that a little bit. Do you have a sense of what you would mean if you offered a prayer like that where you used the word, "we offer you our teachers and students," or would you just not
- 17 offer a prayer like that? 18 A. I wouldn't use the word offer. I might say, 19 you know, protect or help or something along that 20
- 21 I mean it appears that that would not violate 22 paragraph three, but again it depends on what the word 23 offer means by that individual. I would not be able
- 24 to determine from that prayer if it violates paragraph

- 1 person should be informed that they are not to pray 2 like that. That violates paragraph three of our
- 3
- 4 Q. And all board members should comply with the
- 5 policy; correct?
  - A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. But, as you pointed out, at that point 7
- 8 the horse would be out of the barn, so to speak?
  - A. That's right.
- 10 Q. There is no provision in the policy for a
- reprimand or a punishment to a board member. Do you 11
- 12 believe that a board member who offered such a prayer
- 13 would be reprimanded or punished?
- 14 A. Do I believe they would? If I were the
- 15 president, yeah, I would.
- 16 Q. And when you say reprimand, do you mean --
- 17 A. Well, when I say reprimand, I just mean talk
- 18 to that person and tell them, "Look, you violated our
- 19 policy, you cannot pray like you just prayed, and, if
- 20 it happens again, you won't be asked to pray." That's
- 21 the way I would handle it.
- 22 Q. Okay, and so, as you understand, it's not a
- 23 mechanism that's set forth in the policy, but as you

24 understand the way the policy ought to work, if a

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### Hastings, Gregory (Video) 10/13/2006 9:07:00 AM

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		-	
1	IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT	1	GREGORY HASTINGS,
2 3	FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE	2	The Witness herein, called for examination by
4	MONA DOBRICH and MARCO DOBRICH, individually and	3	the Plaintiffs, having been duly sworn to tell the
	as parents and next friend of ALEXANDER DOBRICH,	4	truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth,
5	SAMANTHA DOBRICH, JANE DOE and JOHN DOE, Individually and as parents and next friend of	5	was examined and testified as follows:
6	JORDAN DOE and JAMIE DOE,	6	EXAMINATION BY MR. ALLINGHAM:
7	Plaintiffs		
8	Civil Action vs. NO. 15-120	7	Q. Good marning, Mr. Hastings. I am going to
9	INDIAN RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL.,	8	ask you to clear up something that has been bugging
10	Defendents	9	me. Is it H-Q-S-I-E-R or H-Q-Q-S-I-E-R? Is it
11 12	Deposition of GREGORY HASTINGS, taken	10	pronounced Hoosier or Hosier?
	pursuant to notice at the Indian River School	11	A. In this area we pronounce it Hosier.
13	District, 31 Hosier Street, Selbyville, Delaware, beginning at 9:07 a.m. on October 13, 2006 before	12	Q. Do you know how it's spelled?
14	David A. Sroka, Registered Professional Reporter and	13	A. I believe it's one Q.
	Notary Public.	14	Q. Thanks. Have you ever been deposed before?
15	APPEARANCES:	15	A. Yes, I have, yes.
16	W.I. CUMITARA	16	Q. In what context?
	THOMAS ALLINGHAM, ESQ.	1	
17	RICHARD HORVATH BRIAN LENHARD	17	A. As a defendant.
18	P.O. Box 636	18	Q. What kind of a case?
	Wilmington, Delaware 19899-0636	19	A. It was a teacher in our high school and
19 20	For the Plaintiffs  JARROD D. SHAW, ESQ.	20	there was she brought on a suit, I have to
	Drinker Biddle & Reath, LLP	21	reflect, this has been 12 years, I guess.
21	One Logan Square Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-6996	22	Q. All right, I don't need that much detail.
22	For the Defendants	23	That was a suit by a teacher?
23		24	A. Yes.
24			
		2	
1	MS. DUPHILY: This is the	1	Q. And it was against you in your capacity as
2	videotape deposition of Mr. Greg Hastings,	2	a School Board member?
3	taken by the Plaintiff, in the	3	A. Capacity as a School Board member?
4	matter of Dobrich, et al. versus Indian	4	Q. Yes, sir?
5	River School District, at al., case	5	A. Yes.
6	number 15-120.	6	Q. Have you ever testified at trial?
7	The deposition is taking place at 31	7	A. I have been an expert witness in Small
8	Hosier Boulevard, Selbyville, Delaware. We	8	Claims Court, that's the extent of it.
	•	9	Q. Did the court issue an opinion in that
9	are going on the record on October 13,		·
10	2006 at approximately 9:07 a.m The court	10	case?
11	reporter is Dave Sroka from the firm of	11	A. Yes.
12	Wilcox & Fetzer. My name is Lindsay	12	Q. Were you mentioned in the opinion?
13	duPhily and I am with Discovery Video	13	A. I don't believe so.
14	Services in association with Wilcox &	14	Q. What was your area of expertise in that
15	Fetzer.	15	testimony?
16	I will now ask counsel to	16	A. I had provided architectural design for the
17	identify themselves on the record, and then	17	product. This has been a long time, too but
18	the court reporter will swear in the	18	Q. Let me cut you off, it has nothing to do
	·	19	with issues of religion in the schools, right?
	witness,		A. No. thank you, no.
19	AND ALLINOUS AND		M. INO. ITIMINE VIJU. HU.
	MR. ALLINGHAM: 1 am Tom Allingham	20	
19	MR. ALLINGHAM: I am Tom Allingham representing. ) Plaintiffs. With me are	21	Q. What is your - I am trying to keep this
19 20		l	
19 20 21	representing . ) Plaintiffs. With me are	21	Q. What is your - I am trying to keep this

## Hastings, Gregory (Video) 10/13/2006 9:07:00 AM

1	A. Yes.	1	produced. Better yet you produced the CD
2	Q. I was talking about the School Board Prayer	2	from the tapes.
3	Policy, BDA.1?	3	MR. SHAW: We try.
4	A. That's all that was discussed.	4	(AT THIS POINT A TAPE WAS PLAYED)
5	Q. Okay, so we can eliminate the August 24	5	Q. That is the extent of discussion of the
6	meeting as the venue for public deliberation on the	6	School Board Prayer Policy BDA.1 at the September 28
7	School Board Prayer Policy, is that right?	7	Board meeting. It runs from 11 minutes 45 seconds
8	A. Yes.	8	to 12 minutes and 32 seconds and you just heard the
9	Q. Let me show you what we have previously	9	entirety of it. Would you characterize that as
10	marked as PX18, which is the official minutes of the	10	public consideration of or public deliberation on
11	September 28, 2004 Board meeting. And same question	11	the School Board Prayer Policy by the Board?
12	here, take as much time as you want, Mr. Hastings,	12	A. Yes.
		13	
13	but would you point me to that portion of the		Q. Would you tell me in what way you consider
14	minutes where there was public deliberation on the	14	that to be public consideration or public
15	School Board Prayer Policy, and you may want to look	15	deliberation?
16	at page six of the minutes?	16	A. We acknowledged the prayer, or we
17	A. Just first reading of policy on page six.	17	acknowledged the policy, or alleged policy, and then
18	Q. Okay. Now, do you have a recollection that	18	we were given the opportunity to either talk to
19	there was a discussion or deliberation by the Board	19	constituents, if need be, or constituents had the
20	substantively on the policy at that time, or was the	20	freedom liberty to conduct us, or we as Board
21	policy simply identified and submitted for a first	21	members can contact the policy committee with
22	reading?	22	concerns or any specifics.
23	A. I don't recall the extent.	23	<ul> <li>Q. Would you agree with me that there was no</li> </ul>
24	Q. We are fortunate in having a tape of this	24	opportunity for the public to observe the Board's
	29		31
1	meeting. I can play that portion of the tape for	1	deliberations on the School Board Prayer Policy
1	meeting. I can play that portion of the tape for	1 2	deliberations on the School Board Prayer Policy
2	you and then I have a couple of questions about what	2	during the clip that I just played you?
2 3	you and then I have a couple of questions about what occurred.	2 3	during the clip that I just played you?  A. Would I agree? Repeat that, please?
2 3 4	you and then I have a couple of questions about what occurred.  MR. SHAW: Has the tape been	2 3 4	during the clip that I just played you?  A. Would I agree? Repeat that, please?  Q. Would you agree that there was no
2 3 4 5	you and then I have a couple of questions about what occurred.  MR. SHAW: Has the tape been entered into evidence as an exhibit?	2 3 4 5	during the clip that I just played you?  A. Would I agree? Repeat that, please?  Q. Would you agree that there was no opportunity for the public to observe Board
2 3 4 5 6	you and then I have a couple of questions about what occurred.  MR. SHAW: Has the tape been entered into evidence as an exhibit?  MR. ALLINGHAM: It has not. All	2 3 4 5 6	during the clip that I just played you?  A. Would I agree? Repeat that, please?  Q. Would you agree that there was no opportunity for the public to observe Board deliberations on the School Board Prayer Policy
2 3 4 5 6 7	you and then I have a couple of questions about what occurred.  MR. SHAW: Has the tape been entered into evidence as an exhibit?  MR. ALLINGHAM: It has not. All right, why don't you take it out for a	2 3 4 5 6 7	during the clip that I just played you?  A. Would I agree? Repeat that, please?  Q. Would you agree that there was no opportunity for the public to observe Board deliberations on the School Board Prayer Policy during the clip that I just played you?
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	you and then I have a couple of questions about what occurred.  MR. SHAW: Has the tape been entered into evidence as an exhibit?  MR. ALLINGHAM: It has not. All right, why don't you take it out for a minute, Rick. I want to please have marked as PX52. Let me have the case, we will mark the case. Actually, let's mark the disk itself and we are going to mark it as PX52.  (WHEREUPON, Exhibit PX52 was marked for identification)  Q. All right, we are now going to play for you a portion of the PX52 which runs from 11 minutes and 45 seconds into the meeting. So, we will play that portion of the tape.  MR. SHAW: Do you mind if I bring the speaker closer?  MR. ALLINGHAM: Oh, you won't have any trouble hearing it. And so the record is clear, this is actually a CD which has	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	during the clip that I just played you?  A. Would I agree? Repeat that, please?  Q. Would you agree that there was no opportunity for the public to observe Board deliberations on the School Board Prayer Policy during the clip that I just played you?  A. Yes.  Q. In fact, the public did not have access to the text of that policy during the September 28 meeting, did they?  A. Not to my knowledge.  Q. And there is this process of a first and second reading for Board policies, but they are not actually read out loud, is that correct?  A. It depends on the individual Board member, it depends on the setting, it depends on it could depend on many things, but it's a line item up for discussion, or debate, or to for a concern to be carried or followed up with at a later date.  Q. Let me just follow up on that a little bit. You said it is a line item that is up for discussion or concern or to be followed up with at a later

- no discussion of the Board policy on School Board 1 2 prayer, correct?
- 3 A. Correct.
- Q. At the September 28, 2004 Board meeting 4
- 5 there were no concerns of any kind expressed about
- the Board policy on School Board prayer, correct? 6
  - A. Correct.

- 8 Q. And do you know whether anyone followed up
- 9 with any discussion or concern of the Board policy
- on School Board prayer in public at any later date? 10
- 11 A. I do not.
- 12 Q. In your earlier answer to my question about
- 13 reading, and what does a first reading or a second
- 14 reading mean, I take it that sometimes proposed
- 15 policies are in fact read aloud at a Board meeting?
- 16 A. Yes.
- Q. Do you know why School Board Prayer Policy 17
- 18 was not read out loud?
- 19 A. No, I don't.
- 20 Q. Was there any discussion about whether to
- read School Board Prayer Policy aloud at the 21
- September 28 Board meeting? 22
- A. I don't recall. 23
- 24 Q. We have been told that we have a couple of

- 1 put in front of you. This is a copy of what we have
- 2 previously marked as PX11.
- 3 Do you recall having seen this document
- 4 before?
  - A. Give me a minute.
- 6 Q. Sure. On all of these documents Mr.
- 7 Hastings, take as much time as you want to to read
- 8 them.

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- 9 A. Okay, again I'm sorry, what was your
- 10 question?
  - Q. Have you ever seen it before?
- 12 A. You are taxing my memory.
  - Q. That's my job.
- 14 A. Honestly, I have to testify I honestly
- 15 suppose I have, but I honestly can't remember.
- 16 Q. Fair enough. As you read through PX11 do
- 17 you recognize it as containing most of the language
- 18 of the final Board policy as adopted?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. But there are some differences, correct?
- Let me see if I can be specific. 21
- 22 A. Yeah.
- 23 Q. The Board policy PX9 begins after the title
- with the words, "In order to solemnify its 24

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minutes left, so let's change the tape.

MS. DUPHILY: Going off the

record at approximately 10:00 a.m.. (WHEREUPON a brief recess was

taken)

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MS. DUPHILY: Back on the record at approximately 10:07 a.m..

- 8 Q. I am going to show you a copy of what's
- been previously marked as PX9. This is the --9
- 10 several witnesses have identified this as the
- official Board policy on School Board prayer. It's 11
- 12 titled Board Prayer at Regular Board Meetings. You
- 13 testified earlier that the Board does not pray to
- open special Board meetings or separately executive
- 15 sessions. Did anyone ever suggest that the policy
- 16 should be extended to all Board meetings rather than
- 17 merely regular Board meetings?
- A. Not that I recall. 18
- Q. Was that discussed or raised at any time 19
- 20 during deliberations, public or private on the
- School Board Prayer Policy? 21
- 22 A. Not that I recall.
- 23 Q. I am going to show you a couple of what I
- believe to be drafts of the PX9 policy that I just

- proceedings," and you'll see that although the 1 2
  - concept of solemnifying Board proceedings is
- 3 reflected in line 3 of the proposed policy marked
- 4 PX11, the language is a little different, do you see
- 5 that?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. In addition, before the concept of
- 8 solemnifying the proceedings appears in the proposed
- 9 policy, there is the language, "Following the
- 10 rulings of the United States Court of Appeals Third
- 11 Circuit and past practices of State of Delaware
- 12 legislative bodies, the Indian River Board of
- Education may choose to solemnify," do you see that? 13

- 15 Q. Do you recall any discussion at the Board
- 16 level of that language, that is following the
- 17 rulings of the U.S. Court of Appeals Third Circuit
- 18 and past practices of State of Delaware legislative
- 19 bodies? Did you discuss that at any time at the
- 20 Board level?
- 21 A. I don't recall.
- 22 Q. Do you know what was referred to by past
- 23 practices of State of Delaware legislative bodies?
- 24 A. I would have to answer that question by

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### Hastings, Gregory (Video) 10/13/2006 9:07:00 AM

1	Α.	Yes.	that is	tradition.

- 2 Q. Why was that changed in the adoption of the
- 3 policy?
- A. To rotating? 4
- 5 Q. Yes.
- 6 A. I don't know specific, but I suspect that
- 7 was offered in the policy to ensure at that setting
- 8 regardless of the faith of any Board member that
- they would have the opportunity to share their 9
- 10 prayer at the opening of a regular Board meeting.
- Q. And to give you an example, if the district 11
- 12 elected a Jewish Board member you wanted to make
- 13 sure that the president didn't just skip over the
- 14 Jewish Board member every time?
- 15 A. Correct.
  - Q. Or an atheist Board member, or whatever,
- 17 correct?

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- A. Correct. 18
- 19 Q. Because if an atheist Board member were
- 20 elected, that Board member might want to say look I
- 21 don't believe in a higher power, but I do believe in
- solemnifying our proceedings, and I urge all of you 22 23
- to join me in reminding myself to take seriously my, 24 you know, my oath as a Board member, whatever, yes?
  - 109

- Q. I am going to ask you the same question
- 2 with respect to the Indian River School Board. In
- 3 order for the School Board to solemnify its
- 4 proceedings, is it necessary for it to open its
- 5 meetings with a prayer? Would you give me the same
- 6 answer, nice but not necessary? 7
  - A. Nice but not necessary.
- 8 Q. And let me follow-up on that. In your view
  - why would it be nice?
- 10 A. Again for the comment I made just a moment
- ago, with the charge that we have, the 11
- 12 responsibilities that we have, we need all the help
- we can get. So, if that's divine help to guide us 13
- 14 and make all the right decisions, because some of
- 15 the decisions are tough. It's nice to seek that
- 16 extra help.
- 17 Q. Fair enough. And in that context, and in
  - the context of the reason why in your view it's nice
- 19 to do it, you could accomplish that result, that it
- 20 would be equally nice, if you will, to have the
- 21 prayer or moment of silence off stage?
  - A. I suppose, yes.
- 23 Q. Because the prayer is not directed to the
- public who are sitting out in the audience in front 24

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- A. Yes. Q. Who is the intended audience of the prayer, 2
- 2 the ten Board members who are the ones who have to
- make the decisions at that Board meeting?
- 5 A. In my opinion, yes.
- Q. And so I take it that the intended audience 6
- of the prayer is the ten Board members, it would be 7
- 8 just as effective for the ten Board members to stand
- in the wings and have their prayer and then walk 10 onto the stage as it would be for them to walk onto
- the stage and then have their prayer, correct? 11
- 12 A. Correct.
  - Q. Did anybody ever suggest that a policy or
- practice that would have contemplated that the 14
- 15 prayer that would solemnify the proceedings take
- 16 place before the Board walked out on stage?
- 17 A. Not to my knowledge.
- 18 Q. I asked you a question about the State
- 19 Board of Education, and whether it was necessary for
- 20 the State Board of Education to have a prayer, to
- 21 open its meetings with a prayer in order to
- 22 solemnify its proceedings and you answer was, "Nice

- 23 but not necessary," do you remember that?
- 24 A. Yes.

- 1 of the stage, correct?
  - A. In my opinion, that's correct.
- 3 Q. Look at PX9 which is the board prayer
- again. From October 19, 2004, which is when this 4
- 5 policy was adopted, until the last meeting that you
- 6 attended, which -- I'm sorry if I am getting this
- 7 wrong, which was in December of 2005, correct?
  - A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Was this rotating basis among each
- 10 individual Board member observed? That is to say,
- in practice was the opportunity rotated among each 11
- 12 individual Board member?
- 13 A. The only comment I could make to that would
- 14 be I may have been asked on one other occasion
- 15 during that period of time to ask, to give a prayer,
- 16 but I can't speak to whether or not the president
- 17 had gone in rotation fashion or asked several of the
- 18 Board members in rotation to speak.
- 19 Again, in practice what the Board president
- 20 usually has done is prior to the meeting, once we
- 21 arrive is walk up to that individual and ask them, 22 see if they are willing to give the prayer before we
- 23 begin that evening session.
- 24 Q. The third paragraph reads, "Such

### Hastings, Gregory (Video) 10/13/2006 9:07:00 AM

our students. Peace be unto your prophet Muhammad.' Permissible or violative?

A. Permissible.

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- Q. Now, in reaching the judgment that you reached on each of those prayers, can you describe for me the way you analyze the problem? How did you
- reach the judgment that you reached that all three
- 8 prayers were permissible?
- 9 A. I commented a moment ago that in my opinion
- 10 sitting there at the Board we need or we'd like to
- have all of the help we can get. If there happened 11
- 12 to be other Board members at that particular time, a
- 13 particular time, that were of different faith and they in this rotating basis were asked or offered a 14
- 15 prayer, then their prayer of whatever choice would
- 16 be respected.
- 17 Q. Can you give me an example or generically a 18 kind of prayer that you would view as violative of
- 19 paragraph three?
- A. The only thing that I could share with you, 20
- 21 that myself included would probably have difficulty
- 22 with is and we are speaking of prayer, you are
- 23 asking about our prayer, but if a prayer or offer
- 24 for divine guidance to the devil or evil would be

- 1 audience. Would you view that prayer as violative
- 2 of paragraph three?
- 3 A. Yes.

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- 4 Q. Okay. On the issue of how paragraph three
  - is enforced, I think you mentioned three groups or
- 6 people who could bring to the attention of the Board
- 7 the possibility that paragraph three had been
- 8 violated. The first was the Board members
- 9 themselves, a sort of self policing mechanism. The
- 10 second was the superintendent who might bring an
- 11 issue to the Board and the third was the Board
- 12 attorney, correct?
- 13 A. Correct.
- 14 Q. Just as a practical matter the Board
- 15 attorney does not attend every meeting, is that
- 16 right?

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- 17 A. That's correct.
  - Q. In fact, the Board attorney doesn't come
- 19 unless specifically invited?
  - A. That's correct.
- 21 Q. To your knowledge has the Indian River
- 22 School District ever had a Board member who was not
- 23 a Christian?
- 24 A. I have no idea. I can't respond to that.

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- 1 just a little difficult, I suspect.
- 2 Q. Okay. I am going to give you another
- example of a prayer and ask you whether you think it 3
- 4 would be violative. Suppose that a Board member 5 said, we pray Lord that you enlighten the heathen in
- 6 our midst and that you inspire them to come to
- 7 knowledge of your wisdom and goodness. Would that
- 8 prayer be violative of paragraph three?
  - A. You need to repeat that one more time.
- 10 Q. We pray Lord that you inspire the heathen
- in our midst to come to know your goodness and 11
- 12 wisdom. That's not identical to what I said, but
- the idea is we pray that the heathen come to know 13 14 your wisdom and goodness.
  - Would that prayer be violative of paragraph three?
- 17 A. I suspect it would be permissible.
- 18 Q. So, you would not view such a prayer as a
- 19 prayer that was used to convert anyone?
- 20 A. No.

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- 21 Q. This one is going to be extreme, but it's
- 22 to illustrate a point. Suppose that a Board member
- 23 offered a prayer, Lord, we hope that you will
- 24 convert to Christianity all the Jews in the

- 1 Q. Well, let me turn the question around a 2 little bit. Are you personally aware of any Board 3 member who was not a Christian?
  - A. No, no, I am not.
    - MS. DUPHILY: We are going off the record at approximately 1:03 p.m..
  - (WHEREUPON a brief recess was taken)
- MS. DUPHILY: Back on the record 10 at 1:05 p.m..
- Q. Are you personally aware of any 11
- 12 superintendent of the district who was not
- 13 Christian?
- 14 A. No.
- 15 Q. And to the extent that it matters, are you
- 16 aware of any school attorney who was not a
- 17 Christian?
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. Do you think there is any danger that
- 20 these, all of these I'll call them enforcement
- 21 mechanisms, the people who represent the enforcemen
- 22 mechanisms as Christians would be less sensitive to
- 23 whether an opportunity is used to proselytize,
- 24 advance or convert anyone, than might a person of

### Hattier, Donald (Video) 10/10/2006 9:36:00 AM

1 2 3 4	1	1	
2 3		1	AM PARTIES IN M. This to the
3	IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT	1	MS. DUPHILY: This is the
	FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE	2	videotape deposition of Dr. Donald G.
	MONA DOBRICH and MARCO DOBRICH, Individually and	3	Hattler taken by the Plaintiff in the
	as parents and next friend of ALEXANDER DOBRICH,	4	matter of Dobrich, et al., versus Indian
	SAMANTHA DOBRICH, JANE DOE and JOHN DOE, individually and as parents and next friend of	5	River School District, et al., case number
	JORDAN DOE and JAMIE DOE,	6	15-120. This deposition is taking place at
7	Plaintiffs  Chill Anthon	7	31 Hosier Boulevard, Selbyville, Delaware.
8	vs. Civil Action No. 15-120	8	We are going on the record on October 10,
9		9	2006 at approximately 9:37 a.m.
	INDIAN RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL.,		.,
11 12	Defendants	10	The court reporter is David Sroka
13	DEPOSITION OF DONALD HATTIER, taken at the	11	from the firm of Wilcox & Fetzer,
	Indian River School District, 31 Hosler Street,	12	Wilmington, Delaware. My name is Lindsay
	Selbyville, Delaware beginning at 9:36 a.m. on October 10, 2006 before David A. Sroka, Registered	13	duPhily I'm the videotape specialist of
	Professional Reporter and Notary Public.	14	Discovery Video Services in association
16	ADDEADAMOEC:	15	with Wilcox & Fetzer,
17	APPEARANCES:	16	Counsel will now introduce
18	THOMAS ALLINGHAM, ESQUIRE	17	themselves and then the court reporter will
40	RICHARD HORVATH, ESQUIRE	18	swear in the witness.
19	BRIAN LENHARD, ESQUIRE P.O. Box 636	19	MR. ALLINGHAM: Tom Allingham of
20	Wilmington, Delaware 19899-0636	20	Skadden Arps. With me Is Rick Horvath and
^4	For the Plaintiffs		•
21 22		21	Brian Lenhard also of Skadden Arps,
	WILCOX & FETZER	22	representing the Plaintiffs.
23	1330 King Street - Wilmington, DE 19801 (302) 655-0477	23	MR. GOSSELIN: Jason Gosselin of
24	www.wilfet.com	24	drinker Biddle & Reath representing the
	2	1	defendants.
1		2	DONALD HATTIER,
3	JASON P. GOSSELIN, ESQUIRE	3	The Witness herein, called for examination by
•	Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP	4	the Plaintiffs, having been duly swom to tell the
4	One Logan Square	5	truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth,
7	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-6996	i	
5	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	6	was examined and testifled as follows:
6		7	MR, ALLINGHAM: Jason, I just want
7		8	to put a couple of things on the record.
8		9	The first one is, it is my impression that
9		10	you are not going to be interrupting
10		11	this deposition very much, but I want you
10		12	to know that if you want to make relevance
11		13	objections feel free. I'm not going to
			accept invitations to explain the relevance
11 12			
12 13		14	·
12 13 14		15	of my questions, I think that they are
12 13 14 15		15 16	of my questions, I think that they are relevant.
12 13 14 15 16		15	of my questions, I think that they are relevant.  Q. Mr. Hattler, I represent the Plaintiffs in
12 13 14 15 16 17		15 16	of my questions, I think that they are relevant.
12 13 14 15 16 17		15 16 17	of my questions, I think that they are relevant.  Q. Mr. Hattler, I represent the Plaintiffs in
12 13 14 15 16 17 18		15 16 17 18	of my questions, I think that they are relevant.  Q. Mr. Hattler, I represent the Plaintiffs in this action against the district and I'm going to be
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19		15 16 17 18 19	of my questions, I think that they are relevant.  Q. Mr. Hattler, I represent the Plaintiffs in this action against the district and I'm going to be asking you some questions. If you don't understand
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21		15 16 17 18 19 20	of my questions, I think that they are relevant.  Q. Mr. Hattler, I represent the Plaintiffs in this action against the district and I'm going to be asking you some questions. If you don't understand anything that I ask please tell me, don't answer the
12 13 14 15 18 17 18 19 20 21		15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	of my questions, I think that they are relevant.  Q. Mr. Hattler, I represent the Plaintiffs in this action against the dietrict and I'm going to be asking you some questions. If you don't understand anything that I ask please tell me, don't answer the question. If you do answer it the judge and ultimately even the jury will probably assume that
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21		15 16 17 18 19 20 21	of my questions, I think that they are relevant.  Q. Mr. Hattler, I represent the Plaintiffs in this action against the district and I'm going to be asking you some questions. If you don't understand anything that I ask please tell me, don't answer the question. If you do answer it the judge and

## Hattier, Donald (Video) 10/10/2006 9:36:00 AM

1	A. 550 Atlantic Avenue in Millville, Delaware.	1	well stop now.
2	Q. I'm speaking financially now, Dr. Hattier,	2	MR. ALLINGHAM: My goal in
3	how much has this litigation cost you personally?	3	suggesting to you that I suspect that
4	A. I don't know.	4	you and I disagreed about the scope
5	Q. Are you aware of any expenses that this	5	of relevance was to urge you to do
6	litigation has caused you to incur?	6	precisely what you suggested you would do,
7	A. A general answer would be at various times	7	which is to lodge an objection without a
8	off from work to attend meetings, but my schedule is	8	speech and then if you think that the
9	somewhat flexible so again I don't know what to say	9	questions have become a pattern or practice
10	to that.	10	of harassment, which I don't think that
11	Q. How much has this lawsuit cost the	11	they will, to take what steps you need to
12	district?	12	take. It's pointless for us to engage in
13	A. That's a good question, I don't know.	13	speechifying back and forth and I think we
14	Q. Is that a fact that you would consider	14	will go faster if we don't.
15	important in weighing the considerations that you	15	Q. Are you aware of any donations take the
16	gave in adopting the School Board Prayer Policy.	16	district, the School Board, or the School Board
17	MR. GOSSELIN: Objection, don't	17	members have received to finance their defense of
18	answer that. That goes beyond the	18	this litigation.
19	discovery order that the judge entered.	19	MR. GOSSELIN: Objection, don't
20	MR. ALLINGHAM: I disagree.	20	answer that.
21	Q. In considering the adoption of the School	21	Q. You mentioned earlier that you had had
22	Board Prayer Policy did you consider the costs of	22	comments from the public about the School Board's
23	litigation that would ensue if the policy were not	23	position vis a vis this litigation, correct?
24	adopted?	24	A. Yes, sir.
			·
	25		27
1	MR. GOSSELIN: Objection, don't	1	Q. And you mentioned that some were in favor
2	answer that.	2	and I think you said a lesser number were opposed to
3	Q. In considering the School Board Prayer	3	the Board's position generally?
4	Policy and its adoption, did you consider the costs	4	A. Yes, sir.
5	that would be avoided if it were not adopted?	5	Q. And does it matter to you what your
6	MR. GOSSELIN: Object, same	6	constituents think in these areas?
7	instruction.	7	A. I would say yes it does.
8	Q. Was that a matter of irrelevancy to you?	8	Q. And tell me what consideration you gave to
9	MR. GOSSELIN: Objection, don't	9	your constituencies' expressed views on the matters
10	answer it.	10	addressed in this litigation?
11	<ul> <li>Q. Have you discussed with anyone how the</li> </ul>	11	A. I listened to what they had to say on both
12	School Board or the district will pay it's costs of	12	sides of the issue. And ultimately it boils down to
13	this litigation if the district's insurance carrier	13	my own conscience which is what I tend to go with.
14	does not have to pay the legal fees?	14	Q. During the course of it consideration and
15	MR. GOSSELIN: Objection, don't	15	adoption of the School Board Prayer Policy, did you
16	answer that. Tom, I've got patience, it's	16	or your fellow Board members have discussions of
17	early in the morning, but we have been here	17	that issue, that is what impact the views of your
18	for half an hour. I don't mind the	18	constituencies should have on your consideration of
19	background, you are entitled to do that,	19	the Board Prayer Policy?
20	but all of these other if we are going	20	A. There may have been some general
21	to spend six hours asking questions on	21	discussions regarding that. I believe that the
22	topics that the judge has already ruled are	22	generally accepted viewpoint was that this is
23	not relevant in this phase of discovery and	23	something that folks in our area would strongly
24	perhaps not relevant at all, we might as	24	support.
	26	1	28

- 1 construction projects have nothing to do with the 2 setting of the Board policy? 3 A. Would you read that again, please?
  - Q. Sure. Just so that you have it in mind,
  - its going to be sequence of Board responsibilities
- 6 which we've just established in questions and then
- 7 I'm going to ask you whether you believe, I could
- 8 ask you individually but will ask you broadly
- 9 whether you believe that each of those
- 10 responsibilities does not fall within the Board
- 11 responsibilities of setting Board policy, okay?
- 12 Do you have it?

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- 13 A. I have got the big picture.
- 14 Q. Would you agree with me that buying
- 15 textbooks, approving the use of district facilities,
- 16 approving school use applications, approving the
- 17 school choice applications, punishing students or
- 18 teachers who violate district policy, hiring or
- 19 firing districts employees, approving field trips,
- 20 giving students awards and overseeing or approving
- 21 construction projects have nothing to do with
- 22 setting Board policy?
- 23 MR. GOSSELIN: Objection.
- 24 A. Yes and no both.

- 1 you are trying to draw. Let me ask you this
- 2 question. In areas, among the areas that I talked
- 3 to you about, there are instances in which the Board
- 4 has adopted a policy?
  - A. Uh-hum.
  - Q. Say on what punishments would be applied
- 7 for violation of performance enhancing drug policy?
- 8 A. Okay.

5

6

9

- Q. Okay. Is that an example we can use?
- 10 A. Again it works, yes sir.
- 11 Q. And what you were saying when you said yes
- 12 and no, is that the setting of that policy does
- 13 involve the Board's policy responsibilities?
- 14 A. I believe so.
- 15 Q. Once that policy is in place then the
- 16 application of the policy and the decisions that
- 17 need to be made in order to determine where somebody
- 18 falls in the policy, that kind if determination us
- 19 not the setting of policy but the execution of the
- 20 policy?

22

4

- 21 A. Yes, sir.
  - Q. Or the administration of the policy?
- 23 Α. Yes, sir.
- 24 And so, that was an example along the list

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- Q. Tell me, elaborate so I can understand?
- A. That is an easy one for the most part.
- 3 Maybe not easy, but if you are setting a policy as
- to what constitutes a student punishment and what
- 5 doesn't, those are things that get deliberated over
- 6 quite a bit. There was a time period where we were 7
- discussing the types of athletic enhancement drugs 8 that could be allowed. Are we going to go with what
- 9 the NCAA wants as their list? Did we want to break
- 10 out from that. It would be set as a matter of
- 11 policy is what the students can take and what they
- 12
  - can't, so that is a matter of policy.

Then you have the policy in terms of how would you punish a student for violating that. You know, would you immediately expel a student or do we have a policy where we say, you know what first time anybody can do something, all right let's work with you, let's educate you on what the right way to do it is and then don't do it again.

20 Second time out, okay you have already been 21 instructed, now you've had the details in front of 22 you. Now, if you do it again, now you are subject 23 to some kind of a punishment, that is a policy.

Q. I think I understand the distinction that

- 1 of things that I gave you. Can we agree that the 2
  - decisions on buying textbooks does not involve the
- 3 Board's policy responsibilities?
  - MR. GOSSELIN: Objection.
- 5 A. I don't have an opinion on that at the
- 6 moment, sir. And the reason I say that is because
- 7 if we look at some textbooks from some of the
- manufactures, some of them have more opinion in them 8
- than others. You know, we would want something 9
- 10 that would line with what the district policies are
- 11 in terms of how we want the education to go. So, I
- 12 don't know that I could answer that yes or no.
- 13 Q. Okay. In all events we can agree that the 14 School Board does administer and enforce whatever 15
  - policies it adopts?
- 16 MR. GOSSELIN: Objection.
- 17 A. That is correct.
- 18 MR. ALLINGHAM: Hattier Exhibit 9, 19
- 20 (WHEREUPON Hattier Exhibit 9 was 21 marked for identification)
- 22 Q. Okay.
  - A. Okay.
- 24 Q. You've seen this paper before, correct?

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### Helms, Reginald (Video) 10/11/2006 3:32:00 PM

- Add the same of	
ANTER UNITED STATES DISTRICT COLIFIC	1 MS. DUPHILY: This is the
1 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 2 FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE	
3	2 videotape deposition of Reggie Helms. This
4 MONA DOBRICH and MARCO DOBRICH, individually and As parents and next friend of ALEXANDER DOBRICH,	3 deposition is being taken on behalf of the
5 SAMANTHA DOBRICH, JANE DOE and JOHN DOE,	4 Plaintiff in the matter of Dobrich, et al.
individually and as parents and next friend of	5 versus Indian River School Board, et al,
6 JORDAN DOE and JAMIE DOE, 7 Plaintiffs	6 case number 15-120. The deposition is
vs. Civil Action	7 being held at 31 Hosler Boulevard,
8 No. 15-120	8 Selbyville, Delaware. We are going on the
INDIAN RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL., 9	
Defendents	
1	10 3:32 p.m.
2	11 The court reporter is David Sroka
3 DEPOSITION OF REGINALD HELMS, taken	12 with Wilcox & Fetzer, Wilmington, Delaware.
pursuant to notice at the Indian River School  District, 31 Hosier Street, Selbyville, Delaware,	13 my name is Lindsay duPhily and I am the
beginning at 3:32 p.m. on October 11, 2006 before	14 videotape specialist with Discovery Video
5 David A. Sroka, Registered Professional Reporter and	15 Services.
Notary Public. 6	16 Counsel will now introduce
7 APPEARANCES:	17 themselves and then the court reporter will
8 THOMAS ALLINGHAM, ESQUIRE RICHARD HORVATH, ESQUIRE	
9 BRIAN LENHARD, ESQUIRE	18 swear in the witness.
P.O. Box 636	19 MR, ALLINGHAM: I'm Tom Allingham
0 Wilmington, Delaware 19899-0636  For the Plaintiffs	20 for the Plaintiffs and with me are Richard
1	21 Horvath and Brian Lenhard.
2 SAID COV & SETTER	22 MR. GOSSELIN: Jason Gosselin for
WILCOX & FETZER  1330 King Street - Wilmington, DE 19801	23 Indian River School District and the Indian
(302) 655-0477	24 River School Board and the individual board
4 www.wilfet.com	
	2
1	1 member in attendance.
2	2 REGINALD HELMS,
JASON P. GOSSELIN, ESQ.	3 The Witness herein, called for examination by
JASON P. GOSSELIN, ESQ. 3 JARROD D. SHAW, ESQ.	3 The Witness herein, called for examination by  4 the Pleintiff having been duty swom to tell the
	4 the Plaintiff, having been duly sworn to tell the
JARROD D. SHAW, ESQ.	the Plaintiff, having been duly swom to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth,
JARROD D. SHAW, ESQ. Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP	4 the Plaintiff, having been duly sworn to tell the
JARROD D. SHAW, ESQ. Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP  One Logan Square	the Plaintiff, having been duly swom to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth,
JARROD D. SHAW, ESQ. Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP  One Logan Square Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-6996	the Plaintiff, having been duly sworn to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, was examined and testified as follows:
JARROD D. SHAW, ESQ. Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP  One Logan Squere Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-6996 For the Defendants	the Plaintiff, having been duly sworn to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, was examined and testified as follows:  EXAMINATION BY MR. ALLINGHAM:
JARROD D. SHAW, ESQ. Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP  One Logan Squere Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-6996 For the Defendants	the Plaintiff, having been duly sworn to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, was examined and testified as follows: EXAMINATION BY MR. ALLINGHAM: Q. I've put before you the top document is Plaintiff's Exhibit 30. Would you turn to the last
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1	Q. Is he a minister in Sussex County?	1	Q. Would you tell me what portions of it you
2	A. To the best of my knowledge, yes.	2	do not agree with?
3	Q. He offered the commencement prayer in 2004	3	A. The things when he says there are no
4	at Indian River High School?	4	alternatives, all religions are not equal. I don't
5	A. As I understand it, yes, but I wasn't	5	know if these are things that I would say, but he's
6	present but that's what I heard.	6	entitled to his opinion, and if that's what he
7	Q. Did you have any involvement in inviting	7	believes then that's fine.
8	Jerry Fike to give that prayer?	8	Q. I agree with you that he is entitled to his
9	A. No.	9	opinion. I also think that you are entitled to your
10	MR. GOSSELIN: Objection,	10	opinion. My question was directed to precisely what
11	don't answer that. Same thing, we are	11	your opinion is. Do you believe that all religions
12	sticking to the issues that are properly in	12	are equal?
13	the case right now.	13	<ul> <li>A. Well, it depends on like I said all</li> </ul>
14	Q. Mr. Fike is quoted as saying in this	14	religions equal, probably not, but it depends on
15	article, and I'm looking now about half way down	15	what context, and I don't know what he was I
16	that second column from the right, "My loyalty is to	16	don't know what he was meaning there.
17	Jesus Christ, foremost, even if that takes me to	17	<ul> <li>Q. Do you believe that the only true religion</li> </ul>
18	prison or to death. He is the predicted Messiah.	18	is Christianity?
19	He rose again and I believe that he knew what he was	19	A. I believe that as I read the scriptures
20	talking about. And if he is the Messiah, then all	20	that when it says no one comes to the Father except
21	religions are not equal. There are no alternatives	21	by the Son, I believe that. Am I saying that
22	to Christianity."	22	Christianity is the only religion and that sort of
23	Do you agree with that sentiment?	23	thing, I wouldn't go that far. But I do believe
24	MR. GOSSELIN: Objection.	24	when I read the scriptures it says no one comes to
	5		7
1	I'm not going to instruct him not to	1	the Father except through the Son, that's what I
2	answer, but I'm letting you know that I	2	believe.
3	think this is outside the topic of	3	<ul> <li>Q. Do you have any problem or disagreement or</li> </ul>
4	discussion, and if we are going to spend	4	concern about the accuracy of the statement, "The
5	the afternoon asking Mr. Helms what his	5	only true religion is Christianity?"
6	beliefs are I would appreciate it if	6	A. It would not be a statement that I would
7	you'd tell me now because I will call	7	make, so it depends on where a person is coming from
8	Judge Farnan.	8	when he makes that statement, and I can't put myself
9	But I'm not going to instruct him	9	into their mind. It wouldn't be a statement that I
10	not to answer this.	10	would make.
11	MR. ALLINGHAM: I'm working hard to	11	Q. What efforts, if any let me give some
12	get this deposition done in accordance with	12	context. There was a meeting of the Board of
13	your request. If you make speeches it will	13	Education of the Indian River School District on
14	be harder.	14	August 24, 2004, do you recall that meeting?
15	Q. Do want me to reread the question again,	15	A. I know there was a meeting, I don't know if
16	Mr. Helms?	16	I can recall specifics, but yeah.
17 10	A. Yes, please.	17 10	Q. Let me identify that meeting as the meeting
18 10	Q. All right, I don't think I need to read the	18 10	at which estimates range in attendance from 600 to
19 20	quote, do I?	19 20	800 people?
20 21	A. No.     Q. My question is do you agree with the	20 21	A. Yes, I do. Q. You recall that meeting?
22	sentiments expressed by the Reverend Fike in that	22	A. Yes, I do.
23	quotation?	23	Q. What effort, if any, did you make to ensure
24	A. Not in its entirety.	24	there would be a large turnout for that meeting?
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### Helms, Reginald (Video) 10/11/2006 3:32:00 PM

1 religion, and that type of thing. A lot of people 2 were talking about that issue at that time.

Q. And did you understand that what people were all -- what people considered important was

whether School Board members could pray before the

6 School Board meeting?

A. I don't recall thinking of it specifically that way about praying before a Board meeting, no.

Q. Did it seem to you that the public comments

at the Board meeting had as much to do with prayer in the schools as they did prayer before a School

12 Board meeting?

13 A. Yes.

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14 Did you think that represented a

15 misunderstanding on the part of the public as to

16 what was before the Board at that meeting?

17 A. Yes.

Q. And what efforts were made to correct that 18

19 misunderstanding?

20 A. Well, on my part I didn't know it was a

21 misunderstanding until that night. So, I don't know

22 of anything that was done to prevent it because

quite frankly I didn't know it was a 23

24 misunderstanding until people started getting up at prayer at school related functions outside of the school day, is that a fair description?

A. Well, in my words, in my thoughts I would say it was prayer in general that had anything to do with banquets, graduation, that type of thing, and some of that could have been part of the school day and some of it might not have been. But I didn't think it was an issue of whether the students could open the day with prayer or that sort of thing.

I mean that issue in my mind had been settled by the courts and I didn't think we were there to discuss that. So, when people started coming up to the podium and talking about that I thought well, they obviously misunderstood what's going on.

16 Q. Where do you think that misunderstanding 17 came from?

18 A. I have no idea.

19 Q. What efforts did the Board make to correct

20 that misunderstanding?

21 A. I don't recall anything specifically being

22 done as far as the Board is concerned. I'm not sure

23 whether Mrs. Hobbs took any action or not. I think

24 there was some discussion, although I can't recall

15

the podium talking. 1

2 Q. That is to say until people started talking

3 you thought people understood that this was a School 4

Board prayer issue?

A. No. I didn't think it was a School Board prayer issue, I thought it was more along the lines of prayer before graduation, and that sort of thing. More so than the Board prayer issue.

Q. Have you ever had occasion to -- strike that.

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How did you form the view that you thought what was being talked about at the August 24th meeting was graduation prayer rather than School Board prayer?

A. Well, as I recall it was a matter of prayer. I didn't in my own mind I didn't separate it between prayer before graduation or that sort of

18 thing as specifically to the School Board meeting.

19 I thought it was prayer in general, but not prayer 20 in school, but prayer before any graduation or that

21 sort of thing. I didn't, I didn't separate the two

22

23 Q. So, as you walked into the August 24the meeting you thought what was being discussed was 1 any specifics about an executive session where we 2 thought some people had misunderstood.

3 I don't know what specific actions were 4 taken.

5 Q. Did you think given the clear 6 misunderstanding that it was important for the Board

7 to correct that misunderstanding? 8 A. I don't recall -- I don't recall myself

9 making a statement like we must clear up this 10 misunderstanding. I do know it was brought up, but

11 I don't recall saying anything specifically where we

12 need to make sure we clear up this misunderstanding. 13 Q. Now, when you say I know it was brought up,

14 does that mean the notion that people had 15 misunderstood what was before the Board was brought

16 up? 17 A. In the executive session I think there was 18 some mention of there is some people here tonight

19 that I think misunderstood what was going on. I 20 don't recall who said that, but I do recall it being

21 said.

22 Q. Were you present throughout the public 23 comment session at the August 24 meeting?

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24 A. Yes.

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#### Helms, Reginald (Video) 10/11/2006 3:32:00 PM

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     trying to take away your right publicly to pray,
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A. Yes, I think towards the end of October, fist of September somewhere in there. I thought it was becoming very obvious that now we've sort of gone prayer before graduation as the issue that now it was like all encumbersome, if you will, it's prayer by anything, and even to the point where they didn't want, these parties didn't want the Board to pray before a meeting. I -- that was probably later on in the discussion when that became apparent to me.

Q. And before I move to another question, when you say there were some people that were trying to take that privilege away from me, who were those people, was that me, was it -- who was it?

17 A. I see that as Mrs. Dobrich at that time I 18 believe -- well, I know at some point in time she 19 had contacted the ACLU, or ACLU had contacted her or 20 whatever, but the ACLU became involved and some 21 things started being said, and I had the -- in my

22 mind it was the ACLU coming on Board was now trying 23 to take away my privilege of praying before a Board

meeting, and whether that's what Mrs. Dobrich

1 altogether. We don't want any public prayer 2 anywhere in the Indian River School District. That 3 was my thought. 4

So at that time I thought that I was going to lose my right and my privilege to express prayer at a Board meeting and I became concerned about that. I didn't have to clarify after we had received word from our attorneys --

MR. SHAW: Can I caution the witness not to discuss what he spoke about with his attorney.

A. Okay. It became apparent that our policy in regards to graduation and the prayer was not in accordance with what it should have been.

Q. Yes, sir.

A. At that point in time I said well let's make it right, whatever the law says then that's what I want to do. We are Board members we are supposed to be law abiding citizens, if that's the law then that's what we need to do.

However, as time went on it became apparent that that was no longer the subject, the prime concern now it was going into all aspects of prayer throughout all the district and I thought I was

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wanted, I don't know, but when the ACLU became involved I think to me it became apparent that everything was going to be taken away.

That's the way I felt. So, when I say the parties I'm talking about Mrs. Dobrich and the ACLU.

- Q. Okay, so when you say there were some people that were trying to take that privilege away from me, some people in your mind was Mrs. Dobrich and the ACLU?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And in your previous answer you said when the ACLU became involved it became clear that they were trying to take everything away, what did you mean by everything away?

A. Everything would be they didn't want us to have prayer at athletic banquets, they didn't want us to have prayer at School Board meetings. I can't recall exactly what was said, but I believe in my

19 mind, and my memory is not as good as some other 20 people, but in my mind I was thinking that someone

21 even made the statement, and I don't know who it

22 was, I don't know if it was somebody from the ACLU 23 or whether was Mrs. Dobrich, but in my mind I felt

that someone was saying we want prayer out

going to lose my right to express my prayer in 1 2 whatever way I wanted.

3 As a matter of fact, I even heard, and once 4 again I can't recall who said it, but someone even 5 said that as long as we prayed to God that was fine, 6 but they didn't want us to use Jesus' name. Well, okay I just felt I was going to lose my right 8 to pray the way I felt I wanted to pray.

And so all those things came to light as I recall it the start of fall or maybe the end of summer, but it wasn't in the beginning. In the beginning I thought it was just a prayer issue at graduation.

Q. Did you understand that anyone was trying to take away your right to pray publicly in any way you saw fit at any place except at the School Board meetings where you were functioning as a School Board member?

A. As I recall the only discussions were about the Indian River School District. They didn't say they wanted to take away my right to pray in church, no they didn't say that. The discussions were only around the school district.

24 Q. I wasn't being, at least I wasn't trying to

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defendants.
             FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE
      MONA DOBRICH and MARCO
                                                                                                      LOIS HOBBS.
                                                                                   2
      DOBRICH, individually and )
                                                                                   3
                                                                                             the deponent herein, having first been duly
      as parents and next friend )
      of ALEXANDER DOBRICH,
                                                                                             sworn on oath, was examined and testified as
                                                                                   4
      SAMANTHA DOBRICH, JANE DOE ) Civil Action
                                                                                   5
                                                                                             follows:
      and JOHN DOE, Individually ) Number 15-120 (JJF)
                                                                                        BY MR. ALLINGHAM:
      and as parents and next )
                                                                                   6
      friend of JORDAN DOE and )
                                                                                         Q. Mrs. Hobbs, Ms. Hobbs, which do you prefer?
                                                                                  7
      JAMIE DOE,
                                                                                         A. Miss. Miss Hobbs
             Plaintiffs,
                         )
                                                                                  Я
                                                                                         Q. Miss Hobbs, sorry. Have you ever been deposed
                                                                                       before?
                                                                                  10
      ٧.
                       )
                                                                                  11
      INDIAN RIVER SCHOOL
                                                                                        Q. All right, so you know the process. I'm going
                                                                                  12
      DISTRICT, et al.,
                                                                                  13
                                                                                       to ask you some questions. You are -- unless your
             Defendants.
                           )
                                                                                       counsel instructs you not to answer, you're obligated
                                                                                  14
             Videotape deposition of LOIS HOBBS, taken
                                                                                        to answer those questions to the best of your ability.
      pursuant to notice at 31 Hoosler Street, Selbyville,
                                                                                  15
      Delaware, beginning at 9:12 a.m., on October 24, 2006,
                                                                                       I'm almost world renowned for asking questions that
                                                                                  16
     before Julie H. Parrack, Registered Merit Reporter,
                                                                                        are sometimes confusing. Please tell me if you find a
     Certified Realtime Reporter and Notary Public.
     APPEARANCES:
                                                                                       question confusing or ambiguous, and I will do my best
                                                                                  18
          THOMAS ALLINGHAM, ESQUIRE
                                                                                       to fix it. Don't answer a question that you don't
                                                                                  19
          BRIAN G. LENHARD, ESQUIRE
                                                                                  20
                                                                                        feel like you understand.
           One Rodney Square
           Wilmington, Delaware 19801
                                                                                  21
                                                                                        A. Okay.
           On behalf of Plaintiffs
                                                                                        Q. You need to answer, although we have a
                 WILCOX & FETZER
                                                                                  22
         1330 King Street - Wilmington, Delaware 19801
                                                                                       videographer here, you still need to answer out loud;
                                                                                  23
                 (302) 655-0477
                                                                                       that is to say, so that the court reporter can take
                 www.wilfet.com
                                                                                       down your answer and there's no ambiguity in what your
     APPEARANCES (CONT'D:)
1
          JASON P. GOSSELIN, ESQUIRE
                                                                                       answer is. Nods and "um-hums" can be misinterpreted.
                                                                                  2
2
          DRINKER, BIDDLE & REATH, LLP
                                                                                  3
                                                                                        A. All right.
3
           One Logan Square
                                                                                        Q. I understand that you have a previous
           18th and Cherry Streets
                                                                                        commitment and that you need to stop at 1:00 this
           Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-6998
                                                                                       afternoon, correct?
                                                                                  8
           On behalf of Defendants
                                                                                        A. At 1:30 at the latest.
5
      ALSO PRESENT: TIMOTHY KEARNS
                                                                                  8
                                                                                        Q. Okay. I think what we'll do then is stop for
              LINDSAY DUPHILY, VIDEOGRAPHER
                                                                                       lunch at 1:00. You can take care of your obligations
6
7
                                                                                  10
                                                                                       and if we need to resume thereafter, we will.
             THE VIDEOGRAPHER: This is the videotape
8
                                                                                               is there any -- are you suffering from any
                                                                                  11
      deposition of Ms. Lois Hobbs taken by the Plaintiff in
                                                                                       condition that would prevent you from giving
                                                                                  12
     the matter of Dobrich, et al., versus Indian River
10
     School District, et al., Civil Action No. 15-120. The
                                                                                       comprehensive and truthful answers to my questions
11
                                                                                  13
     deposition is being held at 31 Hoosier Street.
12
                                                                                  14
     Selbyville, Delaware, on October 24th, 2006. We are
13
                                                                                  15
                                                                                        A. No.
     going on the record at approximately 9:12 a.m.
14
                                                                                        Q. Or taking any medications that might prohibit
                                                                                  16
             The court reporter is Julie Parrack from
15
                                                                                  17
                                                                                       you from doing that?
     the firm of Wilcox & Fetzer, Wilmington, Delaware. My
16
                                                                                        A. No, I took a Benadryl, but I don't think that
     name is Lindsay DuPhily, and I am the videotape
                                                                                  18
17
18
     specialist of Discovery Video Services.
                                                                                  19
                                                                                       will prohibit.
19
            Counsel will now introduce themselves, and
                                                                                        Q. All right, your full name is what?
                                                                                 20
     then the court reporter will swear in the witness,
20
                                                                                 21
                                                                                        A. Lois Margaret Hobbs
            MR. ALL!NGHAM: My name is Tom Ailingham.
21
                                                                                 22
                                                                                        Q. And what is your address?
     I represent the plaintiffs. Along with me is Brian
22
                                                                                        A. It is 3 Brighton Street, Ocean View, Delaware.
                                                                                 23
23
     Lenhard and Tim Kearns.
            MR. GOSSELIN: Jason Gosselin for the
                                                                                 24
                                                                                        Q. Are you currently employed?
24
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1	the bottom	•
1	THE DOUGHT	•

- 2 A. They're posted after the Board approves them.
  - Q. So they should be identical?
- 4 A. Yeah.

3

- 5 Q. You have to answer orally.
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Okay. In your 10 years or so here in Indian
- 8 River, did you ever invite people to the Board
- 9 meetings?
- 10 A. I invited children who won an award or teachers
- 11 who wrote a grant to be recognized if they wanted to
- 12 come.
- 13 Q. And with respect to the children who won an
- 14 award, was it typical that you -- and I'm talking now
- 15 about the academic school year board meetings, was it
- 16 typical that children were invited to receive awards
- 17 or to get recognition?
- 18 A. What would happen, because you can't keep track
- 19 of the whole district, the principal, if they felt
- 20 that a child had received an honor, somewhere else in
- 21 the district or outside of the district, and they
- 22 should be recognized at the Board meeting, they either
- 23 called my office and said they should be recognized,
- 24 or we then later had a form that they could fill out

- had made contributions to the district because I think
- 2 they should be recognized. I think that's a part of a
- community, that we say great job and thank you. Some
- 4 of our teachers had written grants for 5 and \$6,000,
  - and I thought they should be thanked publicly.
- 6 Q. How does that grant process work? Do teachers
- 7 have to get authorization from the district, from you
- 8 or from someone at the district before they submit the
  - grant application?
- 10 A. Actually, they can write the grant. MBNA, who
- 11 is no longer in business, or in business with us, I
- 12 should say, offered teachers grants. And they could
- 13 apply to MBNA for the grants. And that's where we got
- 14 most of our grant money. And so they could do it
- 15 directly and could ask for help from the district if
- 16 they needed it, to write the grant or ideas for the
- 17 grant.

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- 18 Q. I take it from your earlier answer that you
- 19 thought that the district benefited directly or
- 20 indirectly from recognizing teachers who had
- 21 successfully applied for grants.
- 22 A. I just wanted to say thank you to people.
- Q. And what I was trying to get at was, as a
- 24 manager, as superintendent, you believed that the

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- 1 so we wouldn't miss children if they would be
- 2 recognized, or should be recognized. And they were
- 3 recognized for, you know, athletics, for academics,
- 4 for outside poster contests, anything usually at the
- 5 state or national level.
- 6 Q. And this was not intended to be restricted to
- 7 athletics, I take it?
- 8 A. No.
- 9 Q. Would it be fair to say that the hope was to
- 10 cast a net broad enough to encompass all areas of
- 11 achievement that the students might participate in?
- 12 A. Anything that was at the state or national
- 13 level that a student participated in, to recognize
- them and say thank you for, you know, trying that or
- 15 doing that.
- 16 Q. There's been some testimony from other
- 17 witnesses that you might have been instrumental in
- 18 expanding this practice of trying to recognize
- 19 achievements by the students. Is that correct?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. Okay. Tell me why you did that. Well, first
- 22 of all, tell me what changes you implemented in that
- 23 area.
- 24 A. I invited people who, children or adults who

- 1 district would benefit by a practice of thanking
- 2 people for achievements on behalf of the district,
- 3 correct?

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- 4 A. Yes, I think that's fair.
- 5 Q. Okay. And then coming over to the, to the
  - recognition of the children, what benefit did you
- 7 think that the district would achieve by recognizing
  - achievements of children within the district?
- 9 A. The children are what we're all about. So I
- 10 wanted to say thank you and recognize the children.
- 11 Q. Did you think the children would benefit from
- 12 that recognition?
- 13 A. I did. I think the parents enjoyed the fact
- 14 that they were recognized, and normally, in the past
- 15 few years I sent them a congratulatory letter with a
- 16 picture of them standing in front of the Board.
- 17 Q. Oh, really?
- 18 A. Um-hum.
- 19 Q. And I guess that was to memorialize the
- 20 recognition?
- 21 A. Well, I don't know. I'm a first grade teacher
- 22 at heart.
- 23 Q. What does that mean?
- 24 A. That I like recognizing children. I think it's

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1	position; isn't that right?	1	A. Yes, um-hum.
2	A. I believe that the atmosphere of the cafeteria,	2	Q. Have you seen that document before?
3	many of them didn't understand what they were saying.	3	A. I may have seen it. I really am not sure.
4	They were talking about school prayer. They weren't	4	Q. You're not sure?
5	even talking about the issue. And they were hostile,	5	A. No.
6	yes.	6	Q. Do you recall having received
7	Q. Do you recall that there were state	7	A. A copy of this?
8	representatives at the August 24th meeting who spoke?	8	Q a complaint about the religious climate at
9	<ol> <li>Yes, there were some state representatives.</li> </ol>	9	Selbyville Middle School and the School Board's
10	Q. Did you know in advance of the meeting that	10	current position on matters of religion?
11	those state representatives would be speaking?	11	A. I believe I, we received a complaint about the
12	A. I'm not sure they told us in advance that they	12	Bible Club at Selbyville Middle School. And I'm not
13	would be speaking. Sometimes they come just to show	13	sure whether it was tied up in the case or if it was
14	up to support an issue and don't say anything.	14	before the case, but
15	Q. Did you think it was odd that elected officials	15	Q. Do you recall from whom you received that
16	would come and speak in support of School Board	16	complaint?
17	prayer?	17	A. I believe it was really from the case when the
18	A. These elected officials are very involved in	18	Does started in the case, Selbyville was their thing.
19	their community, and if they believe that the Board is	19	Q. Dr. Hattier testified that you brought this
20	a legislative body, I would imagine they felt they had	20	letter to his attention.
21	a right to say something, as they're legislators in,	21	A. I may have. If he said so.
22	and the community's feelings at the time.	22	Q. Would you agree with me that the complaints
23	Q. Do you recall that the state representatives	23	expressed in this letter are heartfelt?
24	had a letter that they read into the record?	24	A. Yes.
	400		474
	169		171
1	A. I do recall they had a letter.	1	Q. And these are matters that as superintendent
2	Q. Did you notice that in that letter they seemed	2	you would take seriously. Am I right about that?
3	to have advance notice of the prayer that would be	3	A. I wouldn't want anyone to be discriminated
4	offered at that meeting?	4	against. I would take them seriously.
5	A. I don't recall that.	5	Q. Would you tell me, other than bringing it to
6	Q. I'm going to show you a document which has not	6	the attention of Dr. Hattier, what you did in response
7	been marked for identification. It bears Bates Nos. P	7	to this complaint?
8	1614, P 1615. It is it bears the name of a member	8	A. Well, we found if we found out that there
9	of the Doe family. And I have masked that name out	9	was a Bible Club and it was led by a teacher, it
10	consistently when I've asked deponents about this	10	wasn't to be led by a teacher, if a student wanted to
11	document.	11	lead the Bible Club. But there was some
12	A. Okay.	12	misconception, I believe, that children were let out
13	MR. GOSSELIN: Do you have an extra copy	13	early just for Bible Club to get in the lunch line
14	of that?	14	first. That's a complaint I had heard. And all of
15	MR. ALLINGHAM: Yes. I have an extra	15	the clubs were let out in Selbyville if they had a
10	With ALLINOT Miv. 165. I have all extra	10	the Globs were let out in beloyvine it they flad a

I'm not marking it. I have an extra copy which I can give you if you'll give it back to me.

MR. GOSSELIN: Yeah.

19 BY MR. ALLINGHAM:

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20 Q. Take as much time as you need, Miss Hobbs, to 21 read the document. My first question to you, I can 22 tell you, is going to be whether you've seen it before 23 or not.

Have you finished reading it?

16 club to go to at lunchtime. So whether it was Bible 17 Club or Soccer Club or whatever club it was. So that

18 was one of the things.

19 Q. It sounds to me, Miss Hobbs, as though, and I'm 20 reading between the lines here, that you did

21 investigate the complaints in this letter, or caused

22 to be investigated the complaints in this letter.

23 A. Whether they were in this letter or not, when I 24 heard about the Bible Club, I looked into what the

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Bible Club was doing.

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Q. And what did you find out?

MR. GOSSELIN: Objection. Is this, does this make its way back around to Board prayer?

MR. ALLINGHAM: Yes. And if you'd like to go off the record and walk out in the hall with me, I'll explain my reasons for asking these questions. But I would also note that Dr. Hattier answered these questions without objection, and that I think that I'm entitled to test the answers that were given by one witness with questions to another witness.

But in addition to that, which I think is a good reason for asking them, I think that they do link back to School Board prayer as well.

MR. GOSSELIN: We don't need to go back out in the hall. If you're bringing it back around to Board prayer, that's fine with me.

18 BY MR. ALLINGHAM:

- 19 Q. What did you do in response to the complaints20 in this letter?
- 21 A. The teachers were told that they were not to be
- leaders of a Bible Club, that they could be there aschaperones so people, you know, children wouldn't hurt
  - themselves or whatever else might happen. But they

1 into this.

- 2 Q. And the principal of the school in this case is
- 3 Mr. Kline?
- 4 A. Yes.
  - Q. I asked you earlier questions about the general
- 6 approach to complaints from district residents or
  - parents. Did you follow that approach in this case?
- 8 A. Usually I -- either the principal of the school
  - investigates it or someone from my office investigates
- 10 it

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- Q. And I presume that if you asked someone else to
- 12 do it, you asked for them to report back to you?
- 13 A. To share their findings.
- 14 Q. Okay. And tell me, I gather that Mr. Kline
- 15 reported to you that there was a Bible club being led
- 16 by a teacher, correct?
- 17 A. That there were Bible clubs, I believe three of
- 18 them.
- 19 Q. Three Bible clubs being led by teachers?
  - A. Two teachers and a secretary, as I recall.
- 21 Q. Okay. All at the Selbyville Middle School?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. Okay. Did Mr. -- did you ask Mr. Kline also to
- 24 investigate the allegation that a counselor at the

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- shouldn't lead the Bible Club. And right after that,we had no teacher leaders of the Bible Club at
- 3 Selbyville. So I don't know at what time frame that
- 4 happened. But --
- 5 Q. Did you receive more than one complaint about
- 6 Bible clubs?
- 7 A. Not that I recall. I didn't receive -- it
- 8 either came up with the case or this letter was part
- 9 of it. But...
- 10 Q. Well, this is clearly, this letter is clearly a
- 11 complaint, among other things, about Bible clubs,
- 12 correct?
- 13 A. Right, right.
- 14 Q. And you only recall one complaint about Bible
- 15 clubs?
- 16 A. Right, at Selbyville.
- 17 Q. I'm going to ask you to assume that that
- 18 complaint came in around the 1st of October 2004,
- 19 which is the date of this letter. And I gathered from
- your previous answer that you did cause to beinvestigated some or all of the complaints in thi
- investigated some or all of the complaints in thisletter. Did you do that investigation or did you ask
- 23 someone else to do it?
- 24 A. I asked the principal of the school to look

- 1 school pressured a child to attend the Bible Club?
  - A. I can't say that I did, because I am not sure
- 3 that I had a copy of this letter. I don't recall it.
- 4 Q. Do you know who the Doe family is?
- 5 A. I believe I do.
  - Q. Do you recall getting a complaint from the Doe
- 7 family on the matters set forth in this letter?
  - A. No, I don't.
- 9 Q. Do you have an affirmative memory that there
- 10 was no inquiry made into Ms. Redard's, the allegation
- 11 that Ms. Redard put pressure on a child to attend the
- 12 Bible Club?
- 13 A. I don't recall that at all.
- 14 Q. Do you recall affirmatively that you never saw
- 15 this letter?
- 16 A. I'm sorry, I can't say either way at this
- 17 point.
- 18 Q. When a complaint comes in from a parent, do you
- 19 open a file on that complaint?
- 20 A. Sometimes. Most of the time, yes, we do. And
- 21 it seems like I would have had a file on this one.
- 22 It's a pretty serious letter.
- 23 Q. Did you search your files in your garage to see
- 24 whether you have a copy of this letter?

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